



Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8037

th meeting

Wednesday, 30 August 2017, 3 p.m.

New York

President: Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt)

Members:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Llorentty Soliz
China	Mr. Cheng Lie
Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
France	Mrs. Gueguen
Italy	Mr. Cardi
Japan	Mr. Bessho
Kazakhstan	Mr. Tumysh
Russian Federation	Mr. Nebenzia
Senegal	Mr. Seck
Sweden	Mr. Skau
Ukraine	Mr. Illytskyi
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ..	Mr. Rycroft
United States of America	Mrs. Haley
Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

Letter dated 4 August 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2017/680)

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17-27247 (E)



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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

Letter dated 4 August 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2017/680)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Israel and Lebanon to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2017/743, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/680, which contains the text of a letter dated 4 August 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2373 (2017).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mrs. Gueguen (France) (*spoke in French*): We welcome the unanimous renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for another year. As penholder, as it does every year, France assumed its responsibility and tried to keep the unity of the Security Council on renewing UNIFIL's

mandate. It being necessary to preserve its mandate, we all agreed in the Council to maintain the mission's capacity to ensure that it can carry out its tasks as best as possible. I would like to thank all the members of the Council and the parties for their cooperation and constructive attitude during the negotiations, which were difficult.

UNIFIL is a regional public good. It is carrying out its mandate by monitoring the cessation of hostilities along the Blue Line, where the situation remains volatile but overall calm and stable after more than 10 years. That is in and of itself a major accomplishment, specially when we see that elsewhere in the region the security situation has deteriorated. Carrying out its work in a difficult area of operations, UNIFIL plays an indispensable role of being between the two sides even though the forces present have quite superior capacities. As with all operations and arrangements, UNIFIL can of course can do better and can do more. But no one within the Council can imagine for one second that environment without UNIFIL.

We went as far as we could to take into account the concerns of some Member States, even though the preference of almost the entire Council was for a strictly technical renewal. As a troop contributor, we are well aware of the situation in the south of Lebanon and do not want to imperil the delicate balance. However, that in no way excludes the possibility of working in other contexts on the serious concerns expressed by some of our partners.

Given the difficult regional context, UNIFIL has a strategic stabilizing influence that is in the interests of all. In that regard, I would like to commend the troop contributors, especially Italy, which enable UNIFIL to carry out its mandate. It is also essential that the parties respect all of their obligations.

I should like to conclude by commending the Egyptian presidency of the Council for the month of August, which has led our work with efficiency and wisdom. I wish them a happy Eid.

Mrs. Haley (United States of America): The United States is very pleased to have supported this renewal of the the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). I want to thank all Security Council members, but especially France for its leadership on this vitally important peacekeeping mission. France, of course, has a historic relationship with Lebanon. It has many troops in UNIFIL, and we appreciate their sacrifices and the

sacrifices made by all troop-contributing countries. We appreciate France's willingness to work with us to make significant improvements in this renewal.

Conditions in south Lebanon are very dangerous today. The clouds of war are gathering. UNIFIL exists to help prevent war from happening again in south Lebanon. It is supposed to do that, in part by helping the Lebanese Government to ensure that there are no weapons outside of State control in UNIFIL's area of operations. We have to be honest: for too long UNIFIL's leadership has failed to make sure that goal is realized. In particular, UNIFIL Force Commander Beary's lack of understanding of the threat Hizbullah poses to the region is baffling.

At the direction of its patron, Iran, the terrorist organization Hizbullah is stockpiling an offensive arsenal in southern Lebanon. It has thousands of missiles and trained fighters, all beyond the control of the Lebanese Government. That is apparent to everyone who cares to see it.

Some have observed that there have been no major hostilities in the area since 2006. They say that is proof that the mission is successful. It is proof of no such thing. Hizbullah is not seeking to prevent war; it is preparing for war. Hizbullah has used the relative quiet since 2006 to rearm itself, in violation of resolutions 1701 (2006) and 1559 (2004). That is no secret. Hizbullah admits it and brags about it. It parades in front of television cameras. UNIFIL has a difficult mandate and operations in a difficult part of the world. Its troops, including some from members of the Council, have served with dignity and courage. That is why the United States has strongly supported the mission and will continue to do so.

Today's resolution gives UNIFIL robust authority to help Lebanon and keep the south safe. What we sought in the renewal was to make sure that UNIFIL is doing its job to the fullest possible extent, and I am very pleased with what we have accomplished here today. The status quo for UNIFIL was not acceptable, and we did not accept it. The renewal we adopted today does several important things. It expressly highlights the fact that UNIFIL has a mandate to take all the necessary action to prevent its area of operations from being used for hostile activities. It calls on UNIFIL to establish a more visible presence and step up its patrols and inspections so as to disrupt Hizbullah's illicit activities. For the first time since 2006, the resolution emphasizes

that UNIFIL can assist the Lebanese Government in securing its borders in order to stop the flow of illegal weapons into the country. And very critically, it tells UNIFIL to give us clear reports on what it is being prevented from seeing. For too long, when UNIFIL has hit a Hizbullah roadblock, it has turned away. We do not learn what is going on behind those roadblocks. It does not require an active imagination to know that what Hizbullah wants to keep secret is its illegal weapons. UNIFIL must now tell us the details of where, when and why it gets stopped.

Those are all big steps forward. Today's resolution demands that UNIFIL step up its efforts at a moment when Hizbullah is stepping up its own. Hizbullah's past actions tell us what it will do in the future. It has terrorized the people of Lebanon. It has terrorized the people of Syria, standing on the front lines of the Al-Assad regime's criminal activity. It has engaged in terrorist action far beyond the Middle East. Any nation that has experienced the pain of terrorist attacks in its own country should consider the fact that it might be next. The purpose of UNIFIL is not to go to war with Hizbullah. It is to keep its area free of terrorist personnel and weapons, and to report on any denial of its ability to do so. If UNIFIL does that, it will contribute greatly to the area's peace and stability. Our action today will help to ensure that this peacekeeping mission has the power and the will to do its job.

For the United States, this is a time for strength, resolve and accountability at the United Nations. Our actions today go to the heart of our new approach. The United States will not sit by and watch Hizbullah strengthen itself for the next war. We will not be passive as Iran makes a mockery of the Council's work. Today we took a very good step forward. Together, our next job is to make sure that UNIFIL does what we have instructed it to do here today.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom welcomes the Council's unanimous adoption of resolution 2373 (2017) today. We continue to support a sovereign, stable Lebanon, supported and governed by legitimate State institutions. We recognize the fact that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) makes a significant contribution to Lebanon's stability and security. Without UNIFIL carrying out its vital mission, it would be difficult to argue that Lebanon is more stable or secure, so we are pleased that UNIFIL's mandate has been renewed today.

The United Kingdom continues to be concerned about the violations of resolution 1701 (2006) from both sides of the Blue Line. UNIFIL must be more confident and assertive in enforcing its mandate. Our long-term ambition is to see the Lebanese Armed Forces assert their authority in southern Lebanon and take over responsibilities from UNIFIL. We believe that the resolution we have just adopted provides UNIFIL with the mandate it needs to do the job properly. We now urge the mission and its troop-contributing countries to do everything they can to challenge obstructions to the mission's operation and freedom of movement and to seek to enforce its mandate in full. If those critical requirements are not fulfilled, UNIFIL's forces will struggle and the Lebanese people will be the ones who ultimately pay the price. We therefore repeat our call to all the relevant parties to comply fully with resolution 1701 (2006) and support the critical work that UNIFIL will continue to carry out over the next year.

Mr. Nebenzia (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Today the Russian delegation voted in favour of resolution 2373 (2017), which extends the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), because of the important stabilizing role that this peacekeeping mission plays in the region. The positive effect of the work of UNIFIL's peacekeepers is felt not only on the Blue Line between Lebanon and Israel but also within Lebanon and indeed in the Middle East in general. We greatly appreciate the Tripartite Mechanism's efforts to prevent and resolve incidents. The fragile stability of the constructive collaboration that exists among all the Lebanese political forces must be protected. In our view, every issue on the national agenda, including those related to security, should be resolved by legal institutions through a comprehensive intra-Lebanese dialogue and without external interference.

We cherish our bilateral relations with Lebanon and urge everyone to focus on supporting the Lebanese people and the Government. It is also important to help them to implement measures aimed at preserving political and economic stability, in a country that has recently been making forward progress. We should ensure that we maintain a policy of support to Lebanon's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. We hope that the future activities of this important peacekeeping operation will be carried out with full respect for the opinion of the Government of Lebanon.

Mr. Cheng Lie (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China welcomes the Council's unanimous adoption today of resolution 2373 (2017), which reflects its important support for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). China voted in favour of the resolution, and we would like to thank France for its work as penholder in the discussions and consultations on the draft text. We recognize the mission's effective fulfilment of its mandate, under the leadership of Major General Beary, which has made a valuable contribution to the overall maintenance of calm in the mission's area of operations and to stability in the region. We commend the Lebanese Government's cooperation with UNIFIL and the dedication and sacrifices on the part of all of the mission's peacekeepers and troop-contributing countries.

Challenges still remain for the mission in the form of the continuing crisis in Syria and the serious terrorist situation inside Syria. The Council's extension of UNIFIL's mandate for another 12 months should help to maintain stability in the South of the country, reduce the risk of incidents and escalation and facilitate the further implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). The Security Council and the international community in general should continue to give UNIFIL political support in order to ensure that it has the capacity and resources to fulfil its mandate. We hope that all the relevant parties will work diligently to implement resolution 1701 (2006), exercise restraint, continue to honour the agreement on the cessation of hostilities and work together on further efforts to achieve a permanent ceasefire arrangement. The Council and the international community should continue to provide assistance in that regard.

Mr. Cardi (Italy): Italy voted in favour of resolution 2373 (2017) in order to emphasize its firm and unwavering support for a peacekeeping mission that in our view, in a region plagued by conflicts and division, helps to maintain calm and stability for both Lebanon and Israel to enjoy. Italy is proud to be a member of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), a mission whose excellent performance is due to the quality, dedication and bravery of the personnel provided by 41 troop-contributing countries. We therefore understand fully the security concerns related to the presence of non-authorized weapons in the area of operations and the two other violations of resolution 1701 (2006) by Hizbullah. However, we strongly caution against blurring the line between duties that,

according to resolution 1701 (2006), are entrusted to the Government of Lebanon and those with which the peacekeepers are tasked.

Their responsibilities are very different, and the primary role of the sovereign Government of Lebanon needs to be stressed and respected. Promoting confusion in that regard undermines UNIFIL's operations and strips the Lebanese authorities of their own sovereign prerogatives. Nevertheless, we take note that today the Council has followed its long tradition of unity and consensus on UNIFIL. However, I would like to underline our remaining concerns, with regard to the language of paragraph 15, which we accepted at the very last minute to avoid a division of the Council and to keep its unity, which is paramount for us, and also because we are a responsible component of the peacekeeping mission, being its largest troop-contributing country, together with Indonesia.

In any case, as a troop-contributing country, we reserve the right to assess the measures that the Secretary-General may envisage according to what is requested of him by paragraph 15. Furthermore, it must be stressed that paragraph 15 does not change the existing mandate of UNIFIL.

I would like to conclude with a brief comment on the working methods of the Council. As a member of the Security Council and as UNIFIL's largest troop contributor, with Indonesia, and as a country that has fielded three of the last five Force Commanders of UNIFIL, we would have hoped for more inclusive negotiations. Receiving information from, or being updated by, the penholder, which we thank, in any case, or by the members involved in the negotiations, is not the same as allowing all 15 members of the Council to

have a real positive impact on the same negotiations. The Security Council should always remember to give due consideration to the views of the troop-contributing countries, whose men and women risk their lives on the ground. That applies not only to UNIFIL but to the work we do every day.

As an elected member of the Council, Italy attaches great importance to those principles. I would like to commend Ambassador Bessho on the work done in relation to the working methods, but we think that more should be done to promote working methods that can better serve our common purpose.

Mr. Rosselli (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation voted in favour of resolution 2373 (2017), which we just adopted. As a troop-contributing country to peacekeeping operations, Uruguay has always endeavoured to ensure that missions are able to discharge their mandates, achieve their objectives and carry out the duties entrusted to them.

In our view, resolution 2373 (2017) further strengthens the role of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) by restoring its level of influence and boosting its capacity for action in the field. UNIFIL has enormous responsibilities in an extremely sensitive area, with a highly complex political landscape. Consequently, UNIFIL must maintain an active and visible presence in its area of operations so that it can remain vigilant and ensure that it carries out its mission.

We fully agree with the remarks made by the Ambassador of Italy on his views of the Security Council's working methods.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.



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New York

President:	Mr. Aboulatta	(Egypt)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Llorentty Solíz
	China	Mr. Cheng Lie
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Melki
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Japan	Mr. Bessho
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Tumysh
	Russian Federation	Mr. Nebenzia
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Mr. Vaverka
	Ukraine	Mr. Ilnytskyi
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ..	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez

Agenda

Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)

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The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council who wish to make statements.

Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia): I would like to express appreciation to you, Mr. President, and your team for all the hard work throughout the course of this month in effectively and successfully steering the activities of the Security Council. I speak on behalf of the three African members of the Council, and would like to focus on the African issues that we have dealt with under your presidency.

The briefing that the Council received on 10 August (see S/PV.8022) from Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed on her recent visit to Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo — accompanied by the Executive Director of UN-Women, the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security — was very important in drawing attention to the plight of women and girls in conflict situations. That joint United Nations-African Union high-level mission, which was the first of its kind, also served to highlight the cooperation and partnership between the two organizations in advancing the women and peace and security agenda in Africa. We believe that agenda should be welcomed and encouraged.

We also attach importance to the oral briefing that we received on 15 August 2017 (see S/PV.8024) on the activities undertaken over the past two months since the adoption of resolution 2359 (2017) in order to operationalize the Group of Five for the Sahel Joint Force. The funding gap will be a major challenge, as it hampers the full operationalization of the Joint Force. We believe that there is an urgent need to mobilize international support for the Force. No doubt, the multi-faceted challenges facing the Sahel region can be effectively addressed only through a comprehensive

strategy that encompasses security, governance, development, human rights and humanitarian issues. Therefore, the rapid and effective implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, as called for in resolution 2359 (2017), is absolutely critical. We hope that countries of the region, in cooperation with bilateral and multilateral partners, will redouble their efforts in implementing the Strategy.

In the light of the current situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, we appreciate the briefing (see S/PV.8026) we received from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) on the activities of the Committee. We commend the work that the Committee and its Group of Experts have been doing in trying to address the many difficult and complex challenges facing the Democratic Republic of Congo and to promote peace and stability in the country.

In that regard, the continuous efforts being made to consult with the authorities of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the countries of the region, including in the context of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, as well as to forge greater synergy and cooperation with other regional and international partners, is commendable. The presence of the families of Ms. Zaida Catalán and Mr. Michael Sharp, the two members of the Group of Experts who were mercilessly killed while on duty, was the highlight of the meeting. The Council's support and follow-up for the efforts to bring the perpetrators of that heinous crime to justice are absolutely important.

In that regard, the briefing on the report of the Board of Inquiry that was tasked with establishing the facts in relation to the tragic killing of Zaida Catalán and Michael Sharp was very useful. We hope that its recommendations will be looked at seriously so as to avoid similar tragic incidents in the future. We wish to reiterate that everything should be done and no stone should be left unturned to get to the bottom of who the criminals might be and how that dastardly and unspeakable crime was committed. We must also stress how critical it is to work in partnership with the Government to achieve the desired result, and we express our confidence that the Government will do whatever it takes to help bring the killers to justice.

The security and humanitarian situation in South Sudan remains a source of concern, and the briefing

we received on 24 August was not encouraging (see S/PV.8030). All parties should cease hostilities and stop obstructions to humanitarian operations. It is important that the Council supported the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) high-level Revitalization Forum as the clearest path towards peace in South Sudan, urged all parties to fully participate in the Forum and called on IGAD to convene it expeditiously.

The continued political impasse in Guinea-Bissau and the lack of progress on the implementation of the Conakry Agreement is another source of concern. We welcome the recent visit by the Chair of Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2048 (2012) and by the Peacebuilding Commission country-specific configuration on Guinea-Bissau, including their series of engagements with various stakeholders. There is an urgent need to overcome the impasse to create conditions for the holding of legislative and presidential elections in 2018 and 2019, respectively.

The centrality of the Conakry Agreement to sustain peace, security and development in Guinea-Bissau cannot be overemphasized. We reiterate our call for all stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau to respect and comply with the Conakry Agreement in addressing the differences in the challenges facing the country. We believe that the concerted efforts by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the European Union and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau also remain indispensable in finding a durable solution to the political crisis in Guinea-Bissau. We also underline the significant role played by the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau in ensuring the stability of the country. We urge all international partners to continue to extend the necessary support to address the financial difficulties faced by the Mission in continuing to implement its mandate.

The holding of a peaceful and credible election will mark a significant milestone for Liberia in its democratic transition to peacebuilding and peacebuilding endeavours. The briefing we received on the preparations for the upcoming presidential and legislative elections in Liberia, in line with resolution 2333 (2016), was useful for closely following the developments in the country. We note the start of the election campaign process and stress the need for

Liberian political parties to remain committed to the Farmington River Declaration, which they signed on 4 June, in order to facilitate the conducting of peaceful and violence-free elections to pave the way for a successful democratic transition.

We commend the extensive engagement and follow-up of the Peacebuilding Commission in ensuring the smooth transition of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and developing the capacity of the Government of Liberia. Moreover, we encourage the cooperation among UNMIL, ECOWAS, the Manor River Union, the African Union and other relevant organizations in supporting the transition. We also urge international partners to continue to extend the necessary support to Liberia at such important juncture in its transition.

With regard to the situation in Libya, we welcome the appointment of Special Representative of Secretary-General, Ghassan Salamé. We appreciate his briefing (see S/PV.8032) on his recent initial consultations with all Libyan stakeholders. We also commend the work done by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) under the leadership of Ambassador Olof Skoog, as well as the by Panel of Experts on the monitoring and implementation of the sanctions regime.

The need to reinvigorate an inclusive political process under the auspices of the United Nations to address the contentious issues in the Libyan Political Agreement is very well recognized. While it is the primary responsibility of the Libyan actors to achieve an inclusive and comprehensive political solution, the continued and coordinated efforts of the neighbouring countries and regional organizations and the United Nations remain critical to achieving durable peace and stability. In that regard, we support the continued endeavours of the African Union high-level political committee to foster national reconciliation in Libya. We also look forward to the upcoming African Union high-level committee and the quartet meetings in Brazzaville and New York, respectively, which would help to further enhance and harmonize international assistance for the people of Libya.

Mr. Bessho (Japan): First, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, on a successful presidency during the month of August. I would like to touch upon two issues today, namely, North Korea and the revision of presidential note S/2010/507.

First, with regard to North Korea, the Security Council adopted resolution 2371 (2017) on 5 August in response to the two ballistic-missile launches with intercontinental range in July. All Members of the United Nations must demonstrate renewed commitment to rigorously and thoroughly implementing the existing Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2371 (2017). In addition, just yesterday, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2017/16) that strongly condemns the most recent missile launch by North Korea, which flew over Japan. The statement demonstrates the unity of the Security Council and sends a strong and clear message that North Korea should immediately cease such provocative actions. We urge North Korea to abide by this international call.

Secondly, on the revision of presidential note 507, as the Chair of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and other Procedural Questions, I would like to take this opportunity to announce that the Council has just agreed on a revision of the note by consensus. The Security Council held an open debate on the working methods of the Council in July of last year, during Japan's presidency, (see S/PV.7740), and listened closely to the voices of not only Council members, but also the broader United Nations membership in order to identify areas that would benefit from adjustments.

Having collected some useful ideas and proposals from that debate, we explored them in the Working Group in the process of reviewing and updating presidential note 507 over the subsequent months. As I said a few hours ago, the Council agreed on a revised note 507 after undertaking a series of textual negotiations starting in May. Thanks to the contributions of the members of the Working Group, I believe that the agreed revision represents a comprehensive and balanced text that can serve as a useful handbook on the agreed measures or best practices on working methods of the Council. Let me highlight a few points on the main revisions in some detail in order to address the interests of the broader membership.

In terms of the overall structure and content, the revised note consolidates, streamlines and restructures presidential note 507, of 2010, and all 13 other standalone presidential notes, including the most recent one (S/2016/619), concerning preparing newly elected members, as well as the selection process and preparation of Chairs of subsidiary bodies.

In addition, among others, the revised note includes the following new elements.

On the monthly programme of work, incoming presidencies are encouraged to discuss the programme with other Council members well in advance of their respective presidencies.

On informal consultations, the note refers to additional measures, such as encouraging briefers to be succinct and direct, making more effective use of "Other matters" to raise issues of concern by signalling the intention at least one day in advance, and encouraging presidencies to suggest elements to the press at the end of consultations.

On the drafting process of outcome documents of the Council, the note refers to co-penholdership, including taking into account the expertise and/or contributions of Council members on the subject, encouraging at least one round of face-to-face discussions with all members of the Council in an inclusive manner, providing sufficient time for consideration before the silence procedure, and making the documents focused, succinct and action-oriented.

On dialogue with non-Council members and bodies, the note refers for the first time to the importance of annual joint consultative meetings and informal dialogues with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as well as to consideration of joint missions of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to address conflict situations in Africa.

The note also refers to the Council members' intention to regularly request, deliberate on and draw upon the specific, strategic and targeted advice of the Peacebuilding Commission.

On Security Council missions, the note refers to additional elements concerning their value, as well as aspects related to preparation, itineraries and follow-up.

I believe that the revised product is full of very useful ideas for enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency, inclusivity and transparency of the Council, if implemented appropriately, especially during our respective presidencies. While the codification of best practices is a useful exercise, it is not an end in itself. What is most important is implementation and the actual practice of the Council. It is my hope that this revised note will be utilized as an important basis

for continuing to make further improvements in the working methods through the daily work of the Council.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): As we consider the Security Council's work in August, I congratulate you, Mr. President, and your Mission on a successful presidency.

I turn first to the issue of North Korea, which, in a sense, has bookended the month. We saw a strong example of Security Council unity in early August, and then an alarming reminder of the North Korean threat just this week. The Council came together on the first Saturday of August (see S/PV.8019) for the unanimous adoption of resolution 2371 (2017), which sends a stark message to the North Korean dictatorship: they will pay a price for the aggression and arrogance of continuing their prohibited nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. With our action, the Council also reminded all United Nations States Members that they must rigorously enforce this newest resolution, which includes the single-largest economic sanctions package ever levelled against the North Korean regime, as well as all previous Security Council resolutions.

With its behaviour in recent days, however, North Korea's leaders have made it crystal clear that they are not yet ready to abandon their dangerous path. Twelve members of the Council alone are within reach of their missiles, and I would remind my colleagues that North Korea has proven it is not beholden to friendships and alliances. Even as we rightly celebrate the adoption of resolution 2371 (2017), we must recognize that North Korea will persist in its behaviour, as evidenced by Monday's highly provocative launch over Japan.

Last night, the Council once again unanimously condemned North Korea by adopting presidential statement S/PRST/2017/16). There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that the Council will not acquiesce, but will continue to increase pressure on the regime and seek to change North Korea's path.

Turning to the issue of sanctions more generally, I commend your Mission, Mr. President, for its work this month in holding a briefing (see S/PV.8018) to consider the design and effectiveness of United Nations sanctions. We also held meetings on the sanctions regimes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see S/PV.8026), Guinea-Bissau (see S/PV.8031) and Libya (see S/PV.8032). Taken together, those meetings show that, when the Council speaks with one voice to implement and enforce sanctions, we demonstrate our capacity to

promote and protect international peace and security. When we do not speak with one voice we undermine both the effectiveness of sanctions as a tool and the credibility of the Security Council. However, Council unity is not an end goal. When the Council is unwilling or unable to enforce or enact sanctions, the United States will take action, including unilateral sanctions, to defend ourselves, our allies or our values. I urge Council members to boost their efforts to effectively use this important tool.

I also thank you, Mr. President, for holding in open Chamber the briefing by the Chair of the Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004), concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which allowed the families of Michael Sharp and Zaida Catalán to participate. I encourage my colleagues on the Council to support the Secretary-General in his efforts to immediately establish, under his authority, an independent investigation into the deaths of those two experts.

Yesterday's open debate considered the issue of peacekeeping operations in the larger context of sustaining peace (see S/PV.8033), and we welcomed the opportunity to discuss how that fits into a broader vision for peacekeeping reform. Looking ahead, we will have another opportunity to consider peacekeeping reform at Ethiopia's Council meeting next month during high-level week. I understand that a draft resolution will be adopted at that meeting, and I urge Council members to produce a strong text that reinforces peacekeeping effectiveness and efficiency and allows us to better assess performance. While we support the efforts of the African Union (AU) to increase financial self-reliance, I would remind my colleagues that the AU must take more steps on that front before we are ready to enshrine any decisions in a resolution.

I also wish to highlight the Council's upcoming visit next week to Addis Ababa for consultations with the AU Peace and Security Council. That annual dialogue affords the Security Council an important opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to the AU and to further United Nations-African Union cooperation. In that regard, I thank you, Mr. President, for your steady and professional leadership of the Council this month.

Finally, I also wish to commend our Japanese colleague for his Mission's excellent work on the revision of the note by the President contained in document S/2010/507, which was adopted earlier

today. The revision goes a long way to improving the Council's working methods and contributes to the Council's effectiveness, efficiency and transparency. I congratulate Japan for its tireless and successful efforts on this important matter.

In conclusion, we offer our support to Ethiopia as its delegation takes up the gavel in the month of September.

Mr. Nebenzia (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Security Council's agenda this month was quite full. I would like to thank you personally, Mr. President, as well as your entire delegation, for the effective and skilful way in which you discharged your duties as President. Your presidency was so good that we did not notice the month's passing.

We would like to note that the Egyptian initiatives were very topical. I refer in particular to the Security Council meeting on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons (see S/PV. 8017) and the resolution we adopted to that end (resolution 2370 (2017)). Our discussion of this topic showed yet again that it is necessary to adopt more stringent weapons-control mechanisms, as weapons still manage to fill the arsenals of a number of terrorist organizations almost without hindrance.

The discussion on general issues of sanctions once again allowed us to outline the issues in this area. Despite certain differences of opinion, the majority of members of the Council spoke in favour of further improving our sanctions tools in order to make them more effective and ensure that the humanitarian cost is as low as possible. It is also important that it has been stated very loudly and clearly that unilateral interpretations of sanctions are unacceptable, as is the adoption of supplementary unilateral restrictions. When it comes to reaffirming that there is no alternative the political settlement of conflicts, the open debate on the role of United Nations peacekeeping operations in undertaking peacebuilding tasks and sustaining peace (see S/PV.8033) was quite useful.

We also saw in August another resolution on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (resolution 2371 (2017)), which introduced unprecedented, strict economic restrictions on that country. We are convinced that the possibility of exerting further sanctions pressure on Pyongyang has now been exhausted. We cannot support the idea of economically suffocating North Korea and its people. We need to concentrate on the political track. There is no alternative to the political settlement of all of the issues in the Korean

peninsula. This point was reiterated in the presidential statement of 29 August 2017 (S/PRST/2017/16).

Our discussions of Middle East issues showed that the time is more right now than ever to take practical measures to overcome the impasse in the Israeli-Palestinian cluster of issues, which is key to resolving many other issues in the region. In the Syrian conflict, after de-escalation areas were created, we have noticed positive developments there. In those areas and in other local truce areas, we are witnessing a return to normal life. Demining is being carried out, transport links are being restored, the economic infrastructure is being rebuilt, people are returning to their homes — all of which enables us to concentrate on fighting terrorism. We think that it is important to reinforce those trends, which meet the preconditions necessary for moving forward in the intra-Syrian dialogue in Geneva. We supported the Egyptian presidency's proposal to optimize Council meetings on Syrian issues.

We note that there is positive and constructive interaction among all Lebanese political forces, through which the country managed to break out of its prior political stagnation. We think that all of the issues on the country's national agenda, including those issues related to security, need in future to be addressed in a legal framework through dialogue among all the forces in the country. We support the work being carried out by United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

As to the critical situation in Yemen, in particular the humanitarian aspects, additional measures by the United Nations are needed in order to make sure that there is unimpeded humanitarian access to all areas of the country. We need to exert pressure on all sides to the conflict. It is only through an immediate, all-encompassing ceasefire without preconditions that a resumption of the political processes will be possible. The resolution of the crisis in Yemen should be found in the political sphere.

Also, in keeping with tradition, we discussed African issues. The meetings on that topic confirmed that African problems should have African solutions. Furthermore, the idea that violating a State's sovereignty or interfering in its internal affairs is unacceptable remains axiomatic.

In conclusion, I would like to once again thank our Egyptian colleagues and to wish every success to the delegation of Ethiopia, which will take up the gavel in September.

Mr. Cardì (Italy): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, and Egypt, for your and your Mission's able stewardship in the month of August, which was less quiet than expected, and for deciding to convene a formal wrap-up session.

I will focus on two overarching horizontal issues that were featured prominently during the month, namely, non-proliferation and terrorism.

On non-proliferation, at the beginning of August, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2371 (2017), sending once again an unequivocal message of unity from the international community. By strongly condemning North Korea's increasing provocations, we showed our determination to confront this new level of threat to international peace and security by taking further action. The resolution, adopted on 5 August, provides for the broadest, most comprehensive set of sanctions applied by the Security Council in decades.

As Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), we are committed to ensuring the full and effective implementation of all relevant measures. We are continuing efforts in that regard by reaching out to the entire United Nations membership to ensure that the latest measures are understood and applied quickly and comprehensively. I would also like to recall that we are also committed to ensuring, as reaffirmed in resolution 2371 (2017) itself, that the sanctions regime should not have a negative effect on the humanitarian situation in the country and that the sanctions remain a tool in a broader strategy aimed at the peaceful political resolution of the issue.

In any case, the most recent ballistic missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which Italy condemns in the strongest terms, confirmed the need for the Council to remain alert on this very sensitive issue. The swift adoption yesterday of presidential statement S/PRST/2017/16, following consultations, confirms once again the Council's unity on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea file.

On terrorism, the recent attack in Barcelona, Spain, in which citizens from more than 30 countries were affected — including Italy — reminds us of the global nature of this scourge. The Egyptian presidency rightly made counter-terrorism a priority during this month, as only collective solutions can tackle this challenge. Early in the month, the Council adopted resolution 2370 (2017), on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons. It is a substantial step forward, in our

view, in the international community's commitment to combating the illegal trafficking in weapons, which represents a threat to peace and security and undermines the stability of State institutions. We look forward to meeting the new Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism in September to discuss how the United Nations and the international community can comprehensively tackle terrorism and violent extremism.

I also want to briefly highlight that this month the Council received the first briefing by the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Mr. Ghassan Salamé (see S/PV.8032). Significantly, Mr. Salamé delivered his briefing via video-conference from Tripoli, thereby showing his commitment to work as much as possible in Libya. The Council confirmed its full support of Mr. Salamé and his first initiatives in that role, thereby injecting new momentum into the political process and the central mediation role of the United Nations. During the briefing, a number of delegations, including Italy, also raised the issue of migration and the need to address it using a comprehensive approach.

To conclude, I would like to refer to the Council's working methods. Under the able leadership of Japan, and as Ambassador Koro Bessho just reminded us, the Council has completed the revision of Note by the President S/2010/507, on working methods. The new note represents a significant step forward in the constant improvement of the working methods, the transparency and the accountability of this organ. Of course, as Ambassador Bessho also mentioned, daily practice of what has been agreed will make the true difference, as I mentioned during the meeting on the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon meeting (see S/PV.8037). In that respect, allow me to draw members' attention to the need for negotiations among Council members — in particular when renewing peacekeeping mandates — to be conducted in the most inclusive and transparent way possible, and for the need to give due consideration to the positions of troop-contributing countries and of the countries hosting peacekeeping missions.

In conclusion, Mr. President, congratulations again on your presidency. We look forward to a busy and productive month of September under the presidency of Ambassador Tekeda Alemu and the Ethiopian team.

Mr. Llorentty Solíz (Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, Bolivia congratulates you and your entire team, Mr. President, on the efficient and professional conduct of the work of the Security Council during the month of August. We had a very busy month, in particular this last week, however, it was also a very productive month in which the Security Council dealt with very important issues for international peace and security.

Among the month's topics that we wish to highlight is the open briefing on sanctions, held on 3 August (see S/PV.8018), during which members of the Security Council were able to express their views on that vitally important issue, which has implications for the maintenance of international peace and security. The need for sanctions, their implementation, their effectiveness and even when they should be lifted were some of the points that Council members discussed during the meeting. For our part, we reiterate that sanctions should not be an end in itself, but rather a means to an end. Sanctions are one of the Council's tools for the maintenance of peace and security, and should be among the last to be used. In that connection, we categorically reject the imposition of unilateral sanctions. Such actions not only constitute a flagrant violation of international law, but also undermine the efforts and work of multilateral bodies such as ours — as they extend domestic jurisdiction and legislation from one State to another, thereby violating the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Still on the issue of sanctions, this month the Council adopted new sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We believe that they should serve as an instrument to achieve dialogue among the parties, with the ultimate goal of denuclearizing of the Korean peninsula. The Security Council has demonstrated great unity during this month in adopting resolution 2371 (2017) and, yesterday, presidential statement S/PRST/2017/16. That unity must serve to achieve a peaceful political solution to the conflict. We must support all efforts that have been presented by some Council members to that end. A military conflict cannot be one of the options, as it would have unimaginable consequences.

We are living through the worst humanitarian crisis since 1945. This month the Council addressed the current situation in various countries in crisis, such as Yemen (see S/PV.8027), where, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees and the World Food Programme, more than 20 million people require humanitarian assistance, 17 million people are food insecure, more than 2 million are internally displaced and 280,000 are refugees. Similarly, South Sudan, a country that the Council often discusses, also faces a complicated humanitarian situation, since almost 50 per cent of the population requires humanitarian assistance.

We would also like to note the initiative of Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and of the Egyptian delegation in convening the open briefing on sexual violence on 10 August (see S/PV.8022). The field visit by the Deputy Secretary-General is very important for laying the foundation for collaboration between the United Nations and the African Union in order to promote the participation of women in peace processes. Gender equality is critical to building sustainable peace processes. We hope that such visits can be replicated in other regions in coordination with other regional and subregional organizations.

We would also like to underline the thematic continuity of the Council in recent months under various presidencies. For example, in June, we held an open briefing on cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union (see S/PV.7971); in July, under the Chinese presidency, we held an open debate on improving African capabilities in the area of peace and security (see S/PV.8006); and just yesterday, we held an open debate on peacekeeping and peacebuilding (see S/PV.8033). Next month we will hold an open debate on peacekeeping operations. We hope that this thematic continuity will enrich the debate between the United Nations Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union during next week's joint consultative meeting between the two bodies.

Finally, Bolivia would also like to join others in commending His Excellency Ambassador Koro Bessho of Japan for his work in revising note by the President S/2010/507. We also express our full support to the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia, which will assume the presidency of the Council in September. We pledge our full support to its team and are confident that they will do excellent work.

Mr. Hlynyskyi (Ukraine): We appreciate this opportunity to discuss, in open Chamber, the work of the Security Council in August. Since Ukraine presided over the Security Council during the month of February, this is only the second time this year that the

Security Council has held such a briefing. We welcome the return of formal wrap-up sessions and hope that future presidencies will revive this practice, which is in keeping with the implementation presidential note (S/2010/507).

We also thank you personally, Mr. President, and commend the Egyptian delegation for fulfilling the responsibilities of the presidency throughout the month in a transparent and professional manner. Despite the fact that August is usually a rather slow month, this year it was quite packed. We had several important discussions and adopted a number of truly landmark resolutions.

At the outset of the Egyptian presidency, the Council adopted resolution 2370 (2017), on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons. Considering the spread of terrorism around the world today, as well as the significant involvement of certain States in supporting terrorist activities abroad, we commend the Egyptian delegation for coming forward with that initiative, which was very timely. We expect that, having unanimously adopted the resolution, all Council members have already begun to respect their obligation not to support and supply terrorists with weapons. Failure to do so will undoubtedly have grave consequences, and violators will pay a price for their transgressions. In that regard, it is critical that the Council follow closely how the resolution is being implemented, thereby making yet another tangible contribution to international efforts to combat that scourge.

Another subject that we discussed in early August was sanctions. It is no secret that there is a plethora of views on the subject — from rejecting the legitimacy of such a tool to overblown expectations that through sanctions anything can be achieved. The truth probably lies somewhere in the middle. Ukraine is convinced that sanctions can and do work, when and if implemented in good faith by all members of the international community. We have to remember that sanctions' effectiveness depends on their thorough implementation by all stakeholders without exception. The chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Therefore, it is a joint moral duty of all responsible members of the United Nations family to work towards preventing the obstruction and evasion of existing sanctions regimes. Otherwise, the whole international endeavour will be undermined, and the very idea of sanctions will be gradually discredited. In that regard, specialized and regional international organizations can play an important role in ensuring

the proper implementation of sanctions. The use of additional measures and organizations' own specific instruments to better respond to breaches of the peace and other grave violations of international law is an essential part of the international toolbox in that area.

In August, the Council adopted resolution 2371 (2017), an important resolution that introduced additional sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It was a difficult, but nonetheless unavoidable step, since the Council has a duty to ensure accountability for actions that violate established international norms and principles. North Korea's behaviour in advancing its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes is nothing other than one of the most vivid examples of blatant violations of the international law. Besides engaging in misguided and reckless efforts to establish its own nuclear arsenal instead of improving the living conditions of its people, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea spares no effort to find new ways to circumvent established restrictions and prohibitions. The gravity of the situation was highlighted by the recent ballistic missile launch by North Korea, and we welcomed yesterday's unanimous and firm reaction of the Council, which culminated in the adoption of presidential statement S/PRST/2017/16.

The international community must work diligently to thwart and penalize any attempt to undermine the existing legally binding arrangements in the nuclear sphere. Without a resolute stance on that issue, there is little hope for the eventual eradication of the global threat of weapons of mass destruction. As one of the champions of the global non-proliferation regime, Ukraine will continue to contribute to international efforts to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, which is essential to removing the risk of unnecessary provocations and curbing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's misguided nuclear and missile ambitions.

Returning to the agenda item of our meeting today, I welcome the agreement of Council members on the revised and updated version of presidential note (S/2010/507) on working methods. Our congratulations go to the delegation of Japan and all the members of the Council for their constructive efforts in preparing and negotiating the text. The presidential note adopted today will serve as an important guideline for the Council to make its work more efficient and transparent.

In conclusion, I congratulate you, Sir, on your successful presidency. To to our Ethiopian colleagues, who have a rare privilege and responsibility of the greatest importance in directing the Council's work in September, with Heads of State and Government meeting in New York, I would like to convey our full support.

Mr. Bermúdez (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): Let me begin by congratulating you, Sir, and your team on having conducted the work of the Security Council so efficiently during this month. At the same time, we predict a successful presidency for Ethiopia for the month of September and express our full support in its endeavour.

Moreover, we thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this formal wrap-up session following a month of very intensive work. Uruguay appreciates and recognizes the importance of these formal wrap-up meetings, which allow for the positions of all Council members to be officially recorded and promote the transparency and accountability of this organ. As everyone knows, Uruguay also encourages the holding of informal and interactive meetings of the Security Council with States that are not members of this organ, thereby allowing us to enrich our work with their contributions and improve our work. Concerning the Council meetings held this past month, I would like to focus my attention on those in which humanitarian concerns were the priority issue and to which Uruguay attaches exceptional importance.

One such issue of special significance was addressed at the Council meeting of 10 August, on peace and security in Africa (see S/PV.8022). At that meeting, Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed briefed the Council on her recent visit to Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, during which she was joined by the Executive Director of UN-Women and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. That high-level mission focused exclusively on women and peace and security, and development, while according particular attention to the women and girls most affected by conflict.

Uruguay considers it essential to promote the equality, the empowerment and the well-being of women if peace is to be established and sustained in areas of conflict, in accordance with resolution 1325 (2000) and, more recently, with resolution 2242 (2015). It is crucial to emphasize the importance

and symbolism of this type of visit, which besides signifying the paramount importance of the women and peace and security agenda, encourages the visited countries to move forward in the protection of women, who in conflict situations are exceptionally vulnerable, as well as to include them in Government bodies and allow for their participation in post-conflict situations and peace processes. Supporting them has proved to be fundamental. Uruguay would also like to point out that briefings should be held more frequently to provide information on the situation of women in connection with the main conflicts on our agenda, including inviting representatives of civil society so that they can familiarize us with their point of view.

Another agenda item that I would like to bring up involves Syria. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Stephen O'Brien briefed the Council this morning on the current situation in Syria (see S/PV.8036). Once again, we are facing a gloomy humanitarian landscape affecting the Syrian people with unprecedented cruelty. Although violence in the country has been significantly reduced thanks to the Astana agreements and the most recent ceasefire agreements in the south-west of the country, the humanitarian situation has not improved. That tragic truth demands our effective action. We continue to impassively watch the destruction of a people — the interminable losses of valuable human lives, millions of people deprived of food and the most essential services, hundreds of thousands of orphans and hungry children, women suffering from sexual violence, chemical attacks on the civilian population, hospitals and schools destroyed by constant shelling and the lack of humanitarian access to besieged and hard-to-reach areas where millions of people live.

Concerning children, we reiterate that the violence and deprivation they have been facing will seriously affect their physical and psychological development. It is unfortunate that the Council has not found a more or less durable way to alleviate that difficult situation. We are reminded that we must not abandon our efforts to find options for resolving that humanitarian tragedy.

With respect to Yemen, which has been characterized as the greatest humanitarian crisis in the world, we thank this month's presidency for convening an informational briefing (see S/PV.8027), followed by consultations on the situation in that country, which in most cases is addressed only under the latter format. On that occasion, it was emphasized that millions of

Yemenis today face a triple tragedy: the spectre of famine, the greatest outbreak of cholera in a year, and the failures and injustice generated by a brutal conflict that the world has allowed to continue but which is completely avoidable. Added to that are the blockades of sea, land and air ports to civilian traffic, preventing access into the country of essential imports, including food, fuel and medical supplies and their distribution throughout the territory. Civilians continue to pay the price of a long conflict and military clashes are spreading across several provinces of the country. We are also grateful to the Senegalese delegation for organizing, on 21 August, an Arria Formula meeting on the humanitarian situation in Yemen. We know that this type of informal meeting also enhances the visibility of the issue.

In conclusion, Uruguay believes that the Council has another fundamental responsibility, which is to not allow grievous crimes committed against a defenceless civilian population to remain unpunished. It is inadmissible to promote a climate of impunity. The Security Council must continue to refer cases to the International Criminal Court, as appropriate, to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for their crimes.

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation and to congratulate the representative of Japan for having lucidly led the negotiations on presidential note S/2010/507, in order to improve our working methods.

Mr. Vaverka (Sweden): I congratulate you, Mr. President, and your team on the professional and efficient manner in which you have conducted the Council's work over this past month. It has been a busy month and, looking back, there are four items from the programme of work that I would like to briefly reflect upon.

First, we were very pleased that the Council, on 9 August, was able to unanimously agree an ambitious presidential statement (S/PRST/2017/14) on the risk of famine in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan and north-eastern Nigeria. The statistics regarding the humanitarian situation in those countries are alarming and completely unacceptable. Sweden decided to propose a presidential statement to build on the consensus from the Arria Formula meeting on famines, which was organized by eight Council members in June. We did so as we considered that there was a need for a unified, concrete and comprehensive statement by the Council in support of the efforts of the United Nations and its humanitarian

partners, and the leadership of the Secretary-General. We also believed that it was important that the Council highlight the need to do more to prevent the conflicts that are driving many of these humanitarian crises, as well as the need for more humanitarian funding and unhindered humanitarian access. I thank all Council members for their constructive cooperation on the presidential statement. We now look forward to the Secretary-General's briefing to the Security Council in October, and to more regular reporting on the links between famine and conflict.

Secondly, turning to some of the country-specific items on the agenda, our meeting (S/PV.8026) on the final report (S/2017/672/Rev.1) of the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo extended pursuant to Security Council resolution 2293 (2016) was of particular importance to us. From a Swedish standpoint, that meeting came to centre on the unacceptable murder of the two experts, Zaida Catalán and Michael Sharp. I would like to thank Council members for their solidarity with the families attending that meeting. Now that the United Nations Board of Inquiry into the murders has delivered its findings and recommendations, we welcome the Secretary-General's determination to pursue a further investigation. We owe it not only to the families, but also to ourselves and the Organization to make sure that those responsible for these reprehensible murders are brought to justice. We count on continuing support in that endeavour.

Thirdly, following the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's launch of a long-range intercontinental ballistic missile on 28 July, and the resulting heightened tensions in the region, the North Korean nuclear issue has taken up much of our attention this month. We came together once again yesterday (see S/PV.8034) in response to another missile launch, this time over Japan. While those recent launches — demonstrating the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's continued non-compliance and disregard for Security Council resolutions — remain of serious concern, it was important that the Council was able to act quickly, by adopting resolution 2371 (2017) earlier in the month and yesterday's presidential statement S/PRST/2017/16. This demonstrates that the Council stands united and determined to deal with the growing threat posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear and missile programmes. However, sanctions alone will not resolve the situation on the Korean Peninsula, but

must be accompanied by creative diplomacy, dialogue and confidence-building measures.

Fourthly and finally, this morning we heard from Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura and Under-Secretary-General Stephen O'Brien on the situation in Syria (S/PV.8036), which remains deeply troubling.

As co-penholders for the humanitarian track, Sweden stands ready to initiate meaningful Council action that could complement existing Council products, with the aim of improving the situation for Syrians on the ground. The reduction of hostilities seen in parts of Syria needs to be consolidated and civilians protected. Humanitarian access must now be expanded. Finally, we regret that the Council remains unable to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court. The crimes of the past six years cannot go unpunished.

Before concluding, allow me to pay tribute to Japan for its diligent work and excellent stewardship on the revision of presidential note S/2010/507 on the Council's working methods, which was agreed today. The note is an invaluable tool for enhancing the transparency and efficiency of the Council, while ensuring the consistency and predictability of the Council's work.

Let me conclude by once again thanking you, Mr. President, and the Egyptian delegation for your work this month and wishing the Ethiopian delegation every success for its presidency in September.

Mr. Melki (France) (*spoke in French*): I would like at the outset to join all Council members in congratulating the Egyptian presidency on its extraordinary work during the recent month. Mr. President, you have organized the Council's work with rigour, transparency and effectiveness, while at the same time allowing the necessary flexibility to adapt our programme of work, on the one hand, to the many breaking news events at the international level, as illustrated by the recent events in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Myanmar, and on the other hand, to address the concerns of individual Council members, for example with respect to the Central African Republic. Moreover, you have steered the Council's work based on a clear understanding of our shared priorities in matters related to the maintenance of international peace and security, and an acute awareness of the Council's responsibility. We warmly thank you.

I would like to underscore a number of issues that were of particular importance for France in this

month's full and variegated agenda. Yesterday's open debate on peacekeeping and sustaining peace (see S/PV.8033) allowed for further reflection on the means with which the United Nations can be more effective on the ground. Accordingly, sustaining peace will be contingent on our work in several areas, including disarmament, reform of the security sector, justice and the settlement of local conflicts. It is incumbent upon the Security Council to best mold that work to tailored mandates. Sustainable peace also depends on the those involved in peacekeeping operations to be able to react to challenges in a coordinated manner among the Host State, regional organizations, bilateral partners, and economic and development actors. The convergence of such actors is therefore essential.

Concerning the Council's work in connection with Africa, the meeting (see S/PV.8022) that brought us together with the Deputy Secretary-General, whose commitment we commend, demonstrated how the United Nations can promote the role of women in promoting peace and security on the ground. We welcome the importance accorded to that subject, which will be the topic of an annual open debate during our presidency in October.

As early as the second day of your presidency (see S/PV.8016), Sir, we adopted a firm presidential statement (S/PRST/2017/13) on Burundi, which focused the unity of the Council on that crisis and showed our determined support for the East African Community, President Mkapa's road map and the work of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Burundi, and particularly recalled the absolute need to respect the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi to ensure its stability. France sincerely hopes that Burundi will take advantage of this opportunity so as to re-establish an eased relationship with the international community, launch a political process that will allow for the peaceful holding of the elections and end human rights violations.

On 15 August, the Security Council held a briefing (see S/PV.8024) on the joint force of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G-5 Sahel) joint force in accordance with resolution 2359 (2017), adopted in June. Following the terrorist attacks on Burkina Faso that also targeted the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, the previous day, that meeting allowed us once again to underscore the transnational nature of the terrorist threat facing the Sahel and to move forward the work of the G-5 Sahel

so as to ensure the joint force's deployment on the ground according to the agreed timeline. We welcome the fact that much has already been done in a very short time. With regard to that issue, our conviction remains more than ever that the international community has a moral and political responsibility to help African States to come together to combat terrorism through means complementary to those of peacekeeping operations. Along with a large majority of Council members, France continues to believe that United Nations support for the G-5 Sahel joint force is essential.

The Council also held an important meeting (see S/PV.8026) on the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the presence of the families of the two members of the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo extended pursuant to Security Council resolution 2293 (2016) who were killed in March. Their work, mandated by us, had been outstanding. It is important that the Council pay tribute to their memory. Henceforth, every effort must be made in shedding light on those murders. We reiterate our call that the Secretary-General assemble as quickly as possible, as is within his authority, a special mechanism of inquiry enabling the appropriate judicial authorities to carry out an effective follow-up.

Concerning the Middle East, the Council has also been very active. Despite a divergence in approaches, through the unanimous adoption of resolution 2373 (2017), only moments ago, we renewed the ambitious and robust mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for one year. That was an essential step towards maintaining the stability of southern Lebanon and the entire region.

Concerning Libya, the first briefing (see S/PV.8032) by the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Mr. Ghassan Salamé, allowed us to follow up the new impetus that has been infused in United Nations mediation efforts. The unity of the Council will be decisive in our ensuring together a stable future and a safe and prosperous environment in Libya in line with international and regional initiatives and those of neighbouring countries. In July, our Permanent Representative presented to members of Council the outcomes of the Celle-Saint-Cloud meeting, which strives to work coherently towards those same ends. The Council will play an active role in following up the implementation of the commitments undertaken by the Libyan stakeholders themselves.

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya will be the key component of that process, and it will be necessary to ensure that the Mission be provided with the resources necessary to fulfil its mandate. I would like to also commend the work of Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya and its Swedish chairmanship, which, in particular included on its sanctions list two vessels for trafficking in petroleum.

With regard to Yemen, the briefing (see S/PV.8027) by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the subsequent Arria Formula meeting on humanitarian issues stressed the need to enable unimpeded humanitarian access and to stop the serious violations of international humanitarian law. On that occasion, the Council was also able to call for relaunching the political process — given that there can only be a political solution to the situation in Yemen — and to commend the commitment of Special Envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed who is pursuing his work despite constraints.

Concerning Syria, a majority among us has repeatedly called for safe, full, immediate and unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for all those in circumstances that remain catastrophic. We met this morning (see S/PV.8036) to discuss the issue of Syria, and France recalled its efforts to supporting the United Nations-led process towards achieving a democratic and negotiated transition in accordance with resolution 2254 (2015) and the Geneva communiqué (S/2012/522, annex). That is the only option, which will allow for the lasting return of peace and for effectively combating terrorism, which is our first priority. We are seeing convergences today. We will spare no effort, in particular from now to the week of high-level meetings of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session so as to find a way out of that crisis.

Lastly, this synopsis would not be complete without mentioning North Korea on which the Council showed its responsiveness and firmness yesterday (see S/PV.8034).

In concluding, I would like to join all those who have commended the outstanding work of Japan on presidential note (S/2010/507) from which we will all benefit as members of the Council in the future. Concerning all of these issues, as well as many others, the work that remains to be done is immense, but you, Sir, over the past month, have made a considerable

contribution to that work in sparing neither your resolve or efforts. And we thank you for that.

Mr. Cheng Lie (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China welcomes the convening of this meeting by the Egyptian presidency and appreciates the Egyptian delegation's successful leadership of the Security Council, marked by its positive achievements, for the month of August.

With regard to the Council's work this month, I would like to focus on the following three issues.

First, concerning peace and security, the Council convened an open debate on peacekeeping operations, peacebuilding and sustaining peace (see S/PV.8033). Member States exchanged views in a comprehensive manner on United Nations-led efforts related to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and sustaining peace. China calls for firmly upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, developing a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation at its core, fostering a new, shared, comprehensive and cooperative security vision, and maximizing the role of the United Nations as the core mechanism for maintaining collective security.

In recent years, the African Union (AU) has vigorously promoted solidarity and unity among African countries in the search of peace and development with substantive progress. China hopes that the United Nations and AU will fully implement the Joint United Nations-AU Framework for Enhancing Partnership on Peace and Security to enhance cooperation in areas, such as conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict reconstruction.

Secondly concerning hotspots in Africa, the Security Council considered such issues as Somalia (see S/PV.8035), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see S/PV.8026) and the Sahel region (see S/PV.8024), listened to the relevant briefings and adopted resolution 2372 (2017) on the extension of the mandate of African Union Mission in Somalia. Such efforts help better inform the international community of developments on the ground so that the United Nations and the world community, in general, can lend further assistance to the relevant countries. China wishes to express its appreciation.

The international community should stay the course of political settlements of hotspot issues, encourage all relevant parties to find peaceful settlements to disputes through dialogue and negotiations, improve the security

situation, and ensure cooperation among various parties within the United Nations system and between the United Nations and regional organizations to generate synergies. China always pursues an Africa policy featuring sincerity, practicality, affinities, good faith, justice and shared interests, and stands ready to work with the international community to foster a peaceful, secure and stable international environment — the main contributions to peace, stability and development in Africa.

With regard to counter-terrorism, this month the Council convened an open meeting (see S/PV.8017) on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons and unanimously adopted resolution 2370 (2017). China hopes that this resolution will encourage the international community to enhance cooperation, adopt an integrated approach and collectively cut off the channels through which terrorist organizations acquire weapons, thereby maintaining international and regional peace and security. Terrorism is the common enemy of mankind.

The international community needs to stick to a single standard, maximize the leading role of the United Nations and the Security Council and abide by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Member States need to play a role and assume their primary responsibilities in the area of preventing terrorist organizations from acquiring weapons, strengthen effective coordination and conduct international and regional counter-terrorism cooperation to form collaborative synergy to prevent terrorist organizations from acquiring weapons.

In conclusion I wish to express my best wishes in advance for a successful presidency for the month of September.

Mr. Tumysh (Kazakhstan): My delegation commends the Egyptian presidency for its outstanding leadership with wide coverage of issues on the Council agenda. At today's wrap-up session, we would like to comment on some important items.

First of all, on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, we express our solidarity with Japan. Ballistic missiles flew over its territory two days ago, endangering all air and sea vessels, as well as the neighbouring territories. Japan and Kazakhstan have been among the countries most affected by the devastating consequences of nuclear tests and weapons.

We therefore understand the insight and experience of the Government and the people of Japan.

It is worrisome to see today, when we are celebrating together the International Day against Nuclear Tests at United Nations Headquarters, the increasing threat of nuclear weapons. The position of Kazakhstan on non-proliferation and the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is well known and remains consistent. I will just summarize it in a few words: first, condemnation; second, halting of all tests and launches; third, full implementation of United Nations sanctions and directives; fourth, pressure; fifth, no military option, and exercise of restraint; sixth, dialogue and confidence-building measures; seventh, resumption of the six-party talks without delay; eighth, "double freeze" as a possible beginning; and ninth, unity and credibility of the Council.

I shall now turn to the Middle East.

First of all, on Iraq, we in the international community need to be concerned about the proposed referendum on the independence of the Kurdistan region and the Kurd areas outside the administration of the region. We believe it would have negative consequences that could cause further instability.

As regards Syria, the fifth meeting of the Astana process met in our capital on 4 and 5 July. We saw all the stakeholders gathered, including Jordan and the United States, together with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. De Mistura. Representatives of the United States and Jordan also participated as observers. We are deeply grateful to all sides for their important contributions. Hopefully, the pending August meeting will be conducted in mid-September. We did hold a technical expert meeting at end of August to finalize the September meeting.

The tireless work of participants in the Astana Process is resulting in gradual but significant progress. Each round of talks yields complete results, which have a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of Syrians. The scale and intensity of the conflict have reduced noticeably, and efforts are continuing to create conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Syrian people in need. We express our deep appreciation and gratitude to the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. O'Brien, for his noble, tireless and most effective work in the United Nations, inter alia on the Syrian file for the good of all Syrians, and cordially wish him success and all the very best in his future career

and life. We also support the practice of joint Council meetings on political and humanitarian developments in Syria and look forward to their continuation.

On Yemen, we are thankful to the Swedish mission for initiating consultations on the situation in Yemen on 18 August (S/PV.8027) and to the Senegalese mission for organizing an Arria Formula meeting on the vital role of the United Nations humanitarian assistance partners in the crisis in Yemen, held on 21 August. Due to the devastating humanitarian situation and the world's worst cholera outbreak we are of the view that the situation in Yemen should remain on the agenda of the Security Council.

On Libya, we were pleased to hear the first briefing in the Security Council of the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Mr. Ghassan Salamé, on the situation in Libya (S/PV.8032). We express our full support for the activities of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General aimed at bringing lasting peace to Libya, and welcome his energetic engagement with different actors of Libyan society as well as the international community.

On counter-terrorism, my Permanent Representative, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011), along with the experts of the Monitoring Team, is currently on a mission to Singapore and Malaysia to gather data on the activities of terrorist groups in the countries where they are now shifting their focus — mainly in South-East Asia, as they have been almost completely driven out of Syria. We intend to cover more countries in the latter part of the year.

Throughout this month, the Council has held two remarkable meetings. The first was the briefing by the Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammed, on her mission to Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/PV.8022), which highlighted the importance of focusing on women in all aspects of the work of the Security Council and the United Nations. The significant value of the deliberations demonstrated the importance of having gender as an overarching aspect of all phases of peace and security.

Yesterday, we held another exceptional open debate on sustaining peace as a fundamental element of all peacekeeping work (S/PV.8033). Greater focus on

that would certainly make our efforts more efficient, relevant, timely and more cost-effective, as more is spent on peacekeeping than on early efforts and prevention.

Finally, we also covered several peacekeeping operations mandates. We thank you, Sir, for your vision in streamlining operations and highlighting critical factors for strengthening the Council and enabling it to better fulfil and enhance its mandate.

In conclusion, we thank Japan for its exemplary work on the revised presidential note (S/2010/507), which was adopted in order to improve our working methods. We also express our full support to Ethiopia, the next President of the Council, and wish that delegation all success in that important position.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): I would like to begin by offering thanks and congratulations to you, Mr. President, and to all of your team for a very successful month. I would like to join others in praising your effective presidency and leadership and inclusive management of the Council's business throughout August.

Quite often, August has a reputation of being a quiet month, but it has not been quiet at all. This month, there has been absolutely no let up in the activity of the Security Council. And, of course, the most important issue that we have all faced has been North Korea. So, I want to begin with that and how we respond to the repeated violations of Security Council resolutions. Also, like others, I am very glad that we were able to send a strong united message, first of all on 5 August (S/PV.8019), with the new package of sanctions, and secondly, yesterday evening, with presidential statement S/PRST/201/16, condemning the latest atrocities from North Korea. The threat that North Korea poses, not just to its region, but now to the whole world, means that we must remain united and make sure that we respond with clarity and unequivocal condemnation every time there are such violations.

I also want to use this meeting very briefly to focus on three other points that we have tackled this month.

The first is to pay tribute to the men and women around the world who carry out the decisions of the Security Council, often in the most dangerous locations. This month, the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported to us on its most recent findings (S/PV.8026). Sadly, it was not a routine briefing because it was in the course of seeking evidence for

that report (S/2017/672/Rev.1) that Zaida Catalán and Michael Sharp were so tragically killed. We were also briefed on the results of the United Nations Board of Inquiry report on their murder, and we look forward to seeing its recommendations implemented in full. The Security Council and the wider United Nations have a responsibility to those that work on our behalf. It is essential that we see a swift, full and transparent investigation into who was responsible for their murders and that the perpetrators be held to account. We call on the Secretary-General to establish a mechanism for further investigation without delay.

My second point is about the links that we have seen this month between conflict and humanitarian crises. The United Kingdom welcomes the adoption this month of presidential statement S/PRST/2017/14, on the devastating famines in South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia and north-eastern Nigeria. It is vital that the parties to each of these conflicts respect their obligations to protect civilians and ensure the security of humanitarian operations and personnel. The Security Council must keep up the momentum over the next few months. We look forward to a discussion of these crises during the high-level week and to a briefing from the Secretary-General in October on the deliberate actions that are increasing humanitarian need and the barriers to an effective response.

We were also briefed this month on the growing humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict in the Central African Republic and the dangers that humanitarian workers are facing when trying to deliver aid. The meeting in high-level week on the forthcoming mandate renewal will provide opportunities to reconsider our approach to the Central African Republic.

Finally, the Council has continued its discussion of peacekeeping. I would like to thank Egypt for scheduling yesterday's open debate on the contribution that peacekeeping can make to sustaining peace (see S/PV.8033). The decisions to close the Missions in Haiti, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire have reminded us of the importance of ensuring that peacebuilding is considered throughout the life cycle of a mission, which means ensuring that there is a whole-of-United Nations approach from the beginning and that a mission's strategic objectives are clearly set out at its inception.

I am pleased that this morning we were able to put this into practice and confirm our support for a set of clear strategic objectives in Somalia, when we

unanimously renewed the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) (see S/PV.8035). In response to the joint Africa Union-United Nations review, this marks an important shift in emphasis for the Mission, with AMISOM focusing on the transition of tasks to the Somali security forces and a gradual and phased reduction in AMISOM troop numbers.

I once again offer my thanks, Mr. President, for the work over the month, and I wish the very best to Ethiopia for next month, and I thank Japan for all its hard work on working methods.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

Before adjourning the meeting, as this is the last scheduled meeting of the Security Council for the month of August, I would like to express the sincere appreciation of the delegation of Egypt to the members of the Council, especially to my colleagues, the permanent representatives, to their respective staff and to the Secretariat of the Council, for all the support they have given to us.

I would also like to thank my colleagues in the Egyptian delegation for their great efforts during our presidency of the Council for this month, without which

we would not have been able to achieve as much as we did. Indeed it has been a busy month and one in which we rallied to consensus on several important issues within our purview, most importantly the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (resolution 2373 (2017)) and our presidential statement of yesterday regarding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (S/PRST/2017/16).

We also held a number of discussions that have contributed to our continued efforts aimed at improving the work of the Council with a view to meeting any challenges to international peace and security, in particular our efforts to counter terrorism, develop sanctions regimes and ensure the contribution of peacekeeping operations to sustaining peace. We could not have done any of this alone and without the hard work, support and positive contributions of every delegation and the representatives of the Secretariat as well as all relevant Conference Services officers, interpreters and translators. I would therefore like to sincerely thank all of them.

As we end our presidency, I know I speak on behalf of the Council when I wish the delegation of Ethiopia good luck in the month of September.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.



Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8039th meeting

Monday, 4 September 2017, 10 a.m.

New York

President: Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia)

Members:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Llorentty Solíz
China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
France	Mr. Delattre
Italy	Mr. Cardi
Japan	Mr. Bessho
Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
Russian Federation	Mr. Nebenzia
Senegal	Mr. Seck
Sweden	Ms. Schoulgin-Nyoni
Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ..	Mr. Rycroft
United States of America	Mrs. Haley
Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Expression of thanks to the outgoing President

The President: As this is the first public meeting of the Security Council for the month of September, I should like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Security Council, to pay tribute to His Excellency Ambassador Amr Aboulatta, Permanent Representative of Egypt, for his service as President of the Council for the month of August. I am sure I speak for all members of the Security Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Aboulatta and his delegation for the great diplomatic skill with which they conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Republic of Korea to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I give the floor to Mr. Feltman.

Mr. Feltman: In a statement by its official news agency on 3 September, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea announced that it had successfully conducted a sixth nuclear explosive test. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea characterized the event as a "perfect success in the test of a hydrogen bomb for intercontinental ballistic missile". The Democratic People's Republic of Korea further said that it also "marked a very significant occasion in attaining the final goal of completing the state nuclear force".

The Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), in Vienna, said in a statement that the organization's monitoring stations had picked up an unusual seismic event in the area

of the site used in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for its previous nuclear tests. The CTBTO's data indicated that the event measured approximately 6.0 in magnitude. Governmental sources from United Nations Member States measured a yield as high as 6.3. In any case, it is evident the yield of the device was larger than any of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's previous nuclear tests. Experts have estimated a yield of between 50 and 100 kilotons, or on average more than five times more powerful than the weapon detonated over Hiroshima and at the low end of the yield of a modern thermonuclear weapon.

The CTBTO detected a second smaller seismic event at the location of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea test site eight and half minutes after the main event. The CTBTO has not yet completed its analysis of this second event, but experts have speculated that it could have been caused by the collapse of the tunnel used in the nuclear test.

In an earlier statement the same day, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea official media reported that their leader had inspected what they claimed to be a hydrogen bomb, which was conspicuously displayed in front of a payload fairing for a Hwasong-14 intercontinental ballistic missile. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea article stated that the hydrogen bomb was

"a multi-functional thermonuclear nuke with great destructive power which can be detonated even at high altitudes for super-powerful EMP attack".

This was a rare reference by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the use of an electromagnetic pulse, which, triggered by a nuclear weapon, would aim for widespread damage and disruption to electricity grids and sensitive electronics, including on satellites.

This is the second emergency Security Council meeting on non-proliferation and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in less than a week, and the tenth time the Security Council has met to discuss the Democratic People's Republic of Korea this year. On 31 August, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Foreign Ministry issued a statement rejecting the Security Council's recent presidential statement S/PRST/2017/16, and said that the ballistic missile launch of 29 August was the "first step taken by the Korean People's Army in its Pacific operation and a meaningful prelude to restraining Guam". There are reports today indicating that the Democratic People's

Republic of Korea may be preparing new ballistic missile tests.

We are alarmed by this dangerous provocation. The Secretary-General condemns the underground nuclear test announced by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This act is yet another serious breach of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's international obligations and undermines international non-proliferation and disarmament efforts. This act is also profoundly destabilizing for regional and international security. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the only country that continues to break the norm against nuclear test explosions. The Secretary-General reiterates his call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea leadership to cease such acts and to comply fully with its international obligations under relevant Security Council resolutions.

The Secretary-General counts on the Security Council to remain united and take appropriate action. As was said in the Security Council meeting last week (see S/PV.8034), as tensions rise so does the risk of misunderstanding, miscalculation and escalation. The latest serious developments require a comprehensive response in order to break the cycle of provocations from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Such a response must include wise and bold diplomacy if it is to be effective.

As the Council considers its reaction, the Secretary-General reiterates the importance of responding to humanitarian imperatives regardless of the political situation. The people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea rely on the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need. We will continue to follow the developments and remain in close coordination with the concerned international organizations, members of the Council and other Governments concerned.

The President: I thank Mr. Feltman for his briefing.

I now give the floor to those Council members who wish to make statements.

Mrs. Haley (United States of America): We want to thank you, Sir, for allowing us to have this meeting so promptly, as it is very urgent. We also want to thank the Ambassador of Egypt and his team for the steady hand and the calm way in which they led the Council last month.

For more than 20 years, the Security Council has taken actions against North Korea's nuclear programme, and for more than 20 years North Korea has defied our collective voice. It is worth taking a few moments to recount some of the history.

In 1993, the Council adopted resolution 825 (1993), calling on North Korea to remain in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. That did not work. North Korea withdrew from the Treaty and continued its nuclear pursuit. In 2006, the Six-Party Talks faltered, and North Korea conducted several ballistic missile launches. That led to resolution 1695 (2006), condemning them. The same year, North Korea conducted its first nuclear test. That led to resolution 1718 (2006), establishing a United Nations sanctions regime aiming to stop all nuclear, ballistic missile and other weapons of mass destruction programmes.

After the Six-Party Talks fell apart again in 2009, North Korea conducted additional missile launches and its second nuclear test. That led to resolution 1874 (2009), which expanded sanctions, including an arms embargo and cargo inspection obligations. In 2012, the leap day deal failed, and North Korea conducted two new space launches. The Security Council responded with the adoption of resolution 2087 (2013). Following North Korea's third nuclear test in 2013, the Council adopted resolution 2094 (2013), expanding sanctions to restrict financial, maritime, aviation and diplomatic activities. By 2016, North Korea had conducted its fourth nuclear test and another space launch. It followed that with more missile launches. In response, the Council adopted multiple resolutions expanding sanctions even further, targeting whole sectors of North Korea's economy.

Finally, this year, the Council got even more serious. First, we adopted resolution 2356 (2017), designating high-ranking North Korean Government officials and the military's Strategic Rocket Forces Command for individual sanctions. Then, just last month, after the regime's first two intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launches, we adopted resolution 2371 (2017) — the strongest sanctions we have ever imposed on North Korea. That resolution banned North Korean exports of coal, iron and seafood, and imposed several other measures that will significantly cut off the revenues needed to fund its nuclear programme.

Why did I take the time to go through this history? I did so to make this point. The Security Council has

spoken with unusual unity and consistency on North Korea. That is a good thing. Along the way, there have been problems with implementation, and the Council has at times been too slow and too weak, but this is not a situation in which we have allowed divisions among us to stop any action.

Still, here we are. Despite our efforts over the past 24 years, the North Korean nuclear programme is more advanced and more dangerous than ever. It now fires missiles over Japanese air space. It now has ICBM capabilities. It now claims to have tested a hydrogen bomb. And just this morning, there are reports that the regime is preparing for yet another ICBM launch.

To the members of the Security Council, I must say, "enough is enough". We have taken an incremental approach and, despite the best of intentions, it has not worked. Members of the Council will no doubt urge negotiations and a return to talks. But as I have just outlined, we have engaged in numerous direct and multilateral talks with the North Korean regime, and time after time they have not worked. The time for half measures in the Security Council is over. The time has come to exhaust all of our diplomatic means before it is too late. We must now adopt the strongest possible measures.

Kim Jong Un's action cannot be seen as defensive. He wants to be acknowledged as a nuclear Power, but being a nuclear Power is not about using those terrible weapons to threaten others. Nuclear Powers understand their responsibilities. Kim Jong Un shows no such understanding. His abusive use of missiles and his nuclear threats show that he is begging for war. War is never something the United States wants. We do not want it now, but our country's patience is not unlimited. We will defend our allies and our territory.

The idea that some have suggested of a so-called freeze-for-freeze is insulting. When a rogue regime has a nuclear weapon and an ICBM pointed at you, you do not take steps to lower your guard. No one would do that. We certainly will not. The time has come to exhaust all diplomatic means to end this crisis, and that means quickly enacting the strongest possible measures here in the Security Council. Only the strongest sanctions will enable us to resolve this problem through diplomacy. We have kicked the can down the road long enough. There is no more road left.

This crisis goes well beyond the United Nations. The United States will look at every country that does

business with North Korea as a country that is giving aid to its reckless and dangerous nuclear intentions. What we do in connection with North Korea will have a real impact on how other outlaw nations that seek nuclear weapons choose to conduct themselves in the future. The stakes could not be higher. The urgency is now. Twenty-four years of half measures and failed talks are enough.

Mr. Bessho (Japan): We appreciate the presidency's swift convening of this urgent briefing, which was jointly requested by the United States, the Republic of Korea, France, the United Kingdom and Japan. We also appreciate the briefing by Mr. Feltman.

Less than a week ago, the members of the Security Council gathered to condemn the launch of a ballistic missile by North Korea, which flew over Japan (see S/PV.8034). Yesterday, North Korea announced that it had succeeded in miniaturizing a nuclear warhead that could be attached to an intercontinental ballistic missile. Only hours later, North Korea conducted its sixth nuclear test. Seen together, it is clear how belligerent and dangerous North Korea's actions are and how it is not a problem merely for North Korea's neighbours, but for the entire international community. The Security Council must waste no time in ending such an outrageous and unacceptable challenge to the security and safety of the world.

With regard to nuclear testing, North Korea is the only country to have conducted nuclear tests in the twenty-first century. Almost exactly one year ago, North Korea conducted its fifth nuclear test, and the members of the Council were united in expressing their condemnation in the strongest terms (see S/PV.7821). The international community urged North Korea to stop, but North Korea poured precious resources into enhancing its nuclear capabilities. As a result, the sixth nuclear test exhibited an explosive magnitude of force far greater than the previous one, and has raised the threat to an unprecedented level.

Concerning missile launches, the Security Council adopted a stern presidential statement (S/PRST/2017/16) less than a week ago. I will not repeat the discussion (see S/PV.8034), but let me just remind Council members that missile launches and nuclear tests are part and parcel of North Korea's nuclear development. Taken holistically, the threat that it poses truly has entered a new level, which is more grave and imminent.

The nuclear test by North Korea is a clear violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and a brazen challenge to the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime based on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It also violates the Japan-Democratic People's Republic of Korea Pyongyang Declaration, as well as the Joint Statement of the Fourth Round of the Six-Party Talks.

Japan strongly condemns North Korea and has directly lodged a protest against North Korea. Japan welcomes the fact that many countries in the world, members of the Council and Secretary-General Guterres have already issued statements strongly condemning North Korea, but, beyond condemnation, the Security Council must act to stop North Korea from continuing down this road. We should make it clear to the North Koreans that continuing their current policy will entail serious consequences. We must put the maximum amount of pressure on North Korea to change its policy.

It continues to be critically important for all Member States to faithfully implement the relevant existing resolutions, which have been unanimously adopted, including resolutions 2270 (2016), 2321 (2016), 2356 (2017) and 2371 (2017), but that is not sufficient. Japan stresses the need for the Council to adopt swiftly a new resolution with further robust sanction measures. In paragraph 29 of resolution 2371 (2017), the Security Council expressed its "determination to take further significant measures in the event of a further DPRK nuclear test or launch." The Council must act on in accordance with that affirmation.

Japan is looking forward to continuing to work closely with all the members of the Council on this ever-more urgent and grave threat to the peace and security of the world.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I should like to thank Egypt for its outstanding presidency of the Security Council last month and to congratulate Ethiopia through you, Sir, for having assumed the presidency for the month of September. You can naturally count on France's full support for the coming month, which looks to be particularly busy. I thank you for having convened this emergency meeting upon our joint request alongside the United States, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea and Japan. I also thank Jeffrey Feltman for his very enlightening briefing.

Yesterday, North Korea once again crossed a major red line towards escalation. After launching two intercontinental ballistic missiles and placing one of the countries of the region in clear and present danger, last night it carried out its sixth nuclear test. The event was immediately detected by the International Monitoring System of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

Through its highest ranking officials, my country has voiced its most vehement condemnation of that event. In addition to the expression of solidarity that I offer to the countries of the region on behalf of France, with deep concern, I am calling on the countries of the international community to be lucid and firm. Obviously, each one of us is concerned today because each one of us is threatened.

Let us make no mistake. In just a few months, the threat has changed in its dimensions and even its nature. The threat is no longer merely regional. It is global. It is no longer merely virtual. It is immediate. It is no longer merely serious. It is existential. This serious and global threat endangers our security, strategic stability and international peace. Through its sixth nuclear test, the Pyongyang regime continues to violate its obligations, and defy us. Every one of the actions taken by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea corresponds to its relentless, continuous and methodical work to make its dangerous obsession into a reality as quickly as possible. I am speaking of the possession of an operational nuclear arsenal aimed at changing not only the regional but the international balance. The combination of nuclear capability, to which I referred, and North Korean intercontinental ballistic missiles constitutes henceforth an *erga omnes* danger everywhere.

In that regard, weakness or prevarication is not an option. That is why France calls for a swift, firm and unified response from the Security Council, based in particular on three specific points: the rapid adoption of new sanctions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, very strict implementation of existing sanctions by all actors concerned and the adoption of additional measures by the European Union. Let us be cognizant of the fact that time is running out. We know that Pyongyang does not hesitate and will not hesitate to sacrifice its own people in order to flout the most basic rules we have devised on non-proliferation and so on. That is understood to be a major threat to the very foundation of our entire law and security system;

one that we cannot accept. We are all responsible for ensuring that that system is respected, preserved and even strengthened; our credibility is at stake.

There are those who believe that the international community is not willing to engage in dialogue but, regrettably, the current situation is not at all conducive to negotiations. My country has always supported dialogue. Nonetheless, it must be noted that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has not given us even the smallest sign or assurance that it would perhaps be willing to negotiate on its nuclear and ballistic activities. In the light of such blatant disregard for international law and the authority of the Security Council, there can be no compromise. We have stated on multiple occasions that the violation of Council decisions cannot be treated as a commodity. We cannot allow others to dictate our response.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must end its nuclear and ballistic programme in a comprehensive, verifiable and irreversible manner and meet its international obligations without delay. France also believes that it should join the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. A firm collective response alone will be effective in successfully bringing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, without conditions, to the negotiating table. We must remain accountable in fully implementing existing sanctions. They are not an end in themselves, but they are indispensable.

Let us recall that major economic sanctions were adopted by the Council only in 2016, and they are having an effect. Nonetheless, in the light of new developments, we must put maximum pressure on the Pyongyang regime. France therefore supports the swift adoption of new sanctions, in particular economic and sectoral sanctions, by the Council. As I said, we remain resolute and committed to similar efforts within the European Union.

In the worrisome spiral of one-upmanship and provocation in which it finds itself, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea must bear the consequences of its unrelenting obstinacy. The only response that we can provide is a very stringent, unambiguous policy, with the end goal of a complete dismantling of the Republic's programmes. Only through a strict policy and maximum pressure on the regime will we be able to change the course of events, bring the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the negotiating table,

without conditions, and embark on the path to a political settlement to the crisis.

Given the acute and extremely serious threat, the Security Council must shoulder its responsibility. Rest assured of France's resolute commitment in that regard, as a permanent member of the Security Council.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): This is the sixth time that the Security Council has come together to condemn a nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; the sixth time that the world has held its breath. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the only country in the twenty-first century to have conducted such tests, against all international standards of behaviour. In addition, we have met many times in recent months, following other provocations from the Republic, most recently, just last week, in response to its reckless missile test over Japan.

Yesterday's nuclear test explosion was by far the largest yet. Combined with the increasing range of its missiles, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea poses a threat, not simply to its region, but truly to global peace and security. The most recent test has been quite rightly condemned already by most of the Governments represented here today. We have adopted eight sanctions resolutions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The country is subject to the most stringent sanctions currently applied by the Council, and yet the Republic continues to put its illegal missile and nuclear programmes ahead of international law, international security and the will of the Council.

It is a disturbing and unprecedented situation. Rarely has a State remained so defiant in the face of overwhelming international condemnation and repeated powerful rounds of sanctions. It is clear that existing sanctions applied by the Security Council on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are having an effect, in particular the measures against commodity exports and the financial sector that have been applied since 2016. Those sanctions are making it harder and harder for Pyongyang to acquire the hard currency necessary to fund its programme. Each day, that gets harder still, thanks to the efforts of many States around the table.

Those who doubt that impact need only read the statements coming from the regime. They rail against the sanctions that we have placed upon them. But it is also clear that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is uniquely willing to put its illicit programmes

ahead of the well-being of its people. Those people suffer appalling repression and struggle even to feed themselves. The leadership of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has chosen that path of defiance at great cost.

Faced with this unique threat to international peace and security, the Security Council must condemn the test and the entire nuclear and missile programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We continue to wish for a peaceful way forward. Dialogue will always be our end goal, but returning to dialogue without a serious sign of intent from Pyongyang would be a set-up for failure. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must change course to allow a return to dialogue. Were it to do so, the opportunity exists to end the crisis. Until that moment, we must stay the course on sanctions and, as the Secretary-General has called for, continue to present a united front.

When we met last week, I stated that the United Kingdom believed that a new resolution was required in response to the Republic's dangerous and illegal test flight of the missile over Japan. In the light of yesterday's nuclear test, our resolve to act has increased further. We must increase the pace of implementation of existing sanctions and work rapidly towards the adoption of a new and effective resolution. While continuing to enforce the measures that the Council has already agreed, we should go further by taking steps to sever the funds on which the regime relies in order to pursue its illegal and destabilizing programmes. Not least, we should further restrict the unethical exploitation of overseas workers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has created a deeply dangerous and unstable situation. The United Kingdom will work with our partners on the Council and beyond to tackle the challenge. I urge all States to join us.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): On 3 September, despite the broad opposition of the international community, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea disregarded the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and once again conducted a nuclear test. The Chinese Government resolutely opposes and strongly condemns the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in violation of Security Council resolutions. Achieving the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula

and maintaining the nuclear non-proliferation system and peace and stability in North-East Asia constitute the firm stand of the Chinese Government, as well as the overall aspiration of the international community. We strongly urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to face up squarely to the firm will of the international community on the issue of the denuclearization of the peninsula and earnestly abide by the relevant resolutions of the Council; stop taking actions that are wrong, that lead to the deterioration of the situation and that are not in line with its own interests; and to return to the track of solving the issue through dialogue.

The situation on the Korean peninsula continues to deteriorate as we speak, falling into a vicious circle. The peninsula issue must be resolved peacefully. China will never allow chaos and war on the peninsula. The parties concerned must strengthen their sense of urgency; take due responsibility; play their due roles; take practical measures; make joint efforts to ease the situation together; restart the dialogue and talks; and prevent further deterioration of the situation on the peninsula.

China and Russia proposed a two-track approach that promotes the denuclearization of the peninsula and the establishment of a peace mechanism in parallel. The suspension-for-suspension initiative, which calls for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to suspend its nuclear and missile activities and for the United States and the Republic of Korea to suspend their large-scale military exercises, and the step-by-step concept by Russia are the basis on which both countries jointly proposed a road map to resolve the peninsula issue. That joint initiative by China and Russia is practical and feasible and is aimed at addressing the most urgent security concerns of the parties concerned; easing the tension as soon as possible; preventing the continuous escalation of the situation; achieving through dialogue the denuclearization of the peninsula; and maintaining the peace and stability of the peninsula and the region. We hope that the parties concerned will seriously consider that proposal and actively respond to it.

China calls upon the international community to jointly and comprehensively implement the relevant resolutions of the Security Council on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, firmly push forward the goal of denuclearization of the peninsula and firmly maintain the peace and stability of the peninsula.

Mr. Yelchenko (Ukraine): I thank Mr. Jeffrey Feltman for his briefing on this alarming issue, and the United States of America, Japan and the Republic of Korea for initiating today's Security Council briefing. The open format of our meeting is important, as it leaves no doubt as to what the North Korean regime will hear from every member of the Security Council. We need to express our attitude to their policies loudly and clearly.

Ukraine is deeply concerned about the conduct of yet another nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which represents a threat to international peace and security and constitutes a flagrant breach of the non-proliferation regime, including universal norms prohibiting nuclear testing. In that regard, I would like to recall the statement issued today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine:

"In conjunction with Pyongyang's aggressive ballistic missile programme, it now poses a real threat not only to neighbouring countries, but also to the entire international community. As the country that voluntarily renounced its third-largest nuclear arsenal along with the strategic means of its delivery, Ukraine regards Pyongyang's recent actions as a conscious, reckless and dangerous provocation. It is most deplorable that the North Korean leadership has once again defied — bluntly and cynically — numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions.

"Ukraine calls on Pyongyang to refrain from any demonstration of force, cease all nuclear tests without delay and restart a constructive dialogue, without preconditions, in order to ensure the complete, irreversible and verifiable renunciation of its nuclear and missile programmes. Ukraine stands ready to join other members of the international community, including as a current non-permanent member of the Security Council, in taking stronger and more decisive measures to curb future nuclear and missile threats. In order to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime, we call upon the Security Council to undertake an in-depth investigation into the development of the North Korean nuclear and missile programmes, in order to expose any possible foreign assistance to Pyongyang in this area."

There are some points that the Ukrainian delegation would like to highlight in that regard. Pyongyang's

policy has proved to be very persistent and clear in ignoring international law and the numerous calls to halt its illegal activity. That leaves no hope for compliance by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with existing norms and prohibitions. Moreover, Pyongyang's aggressive rhetoric is aimed at legitimizing such acts by blaming other States for raising the tensions in the region. That is absolutely unacceptable.

Needless to say, the Council should use every instrument at its disposal to ensure the full implementation of its resolutions. At the same time, we cannot but recognize that we urgently need even more robust measures to respond comprehensively and effectively to the growing nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula. Ukraine remains ready for constructive work with all delegations on this issue in order to ensure positive changes in the current situation and to move closer to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Mr. Cardi (Italy): The latest nuclear test by North Korea represents, in our view, a grave and reckless provocation that violates successive Security Council resolutions. Our Minister for Foreign Affairs immediately condemned this act in the strongest terms.

Since the early hours after the test, Prime Minister Gentiloni has been in close contact with our main European and international partners, confirming that Italy will continue to do its part for a firm and cohesive response at the international and the European Union levels to pressure Pyongyang to desist from its continued provocations. As our Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Alfano, stressed, by pursuing its nuclear and ballistic programmes, Pyongyang poses a clear threat to international peace and security and is increasingly and seriously challenging the global non-proliferation regime. North Korea is the only country, as was recalled, that has tested a nuclear device in the twenty-first century. Such a breach of the international moratorium on nuclear tests highlights once more the urgent need for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Also following an initiative by the Italian presidency, this morning the leaders of the Group of Seven issued a statement urging the full implementation of Security Council resolutions, stating their readiness to adopt further measures to ensure that North Korea reverts to international legality and recalling the primary role of the Council to that end. We therefore express our full solidarity with the Governments of the region,

as well as their peoples, who are directly affected by the consequences of Pyongyang's irresponsible acts, and reaffirm that North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes are a global threat that concerns us all.

The regime of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continues to systematically defy the authority of the Council and the will of the international community as a whole. Its latest nuclear test poses a new level of threat. It is imperative that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea immediately put a complete stop to the development of its missile and nuclear programmes in a verifiable and irreversible manner.

While underlining the importance that Italy attaches to the continued unity of the Security Council on this matter, we believe that under the current circumstances a firm and determined response by the Council is the right course of action. Therefore, we encourage the Security Council to adopt further measures in response to the latest nuclear test. We will conduct our work constructively to that end, bearing in mind that sanctions must remain a tool that is part of a broader strategy aimed at a peaceful and long-term solution of the issue of the Korean peninsula and the region as a whole. In that vein, we are committed to ensuring, as we affirmed in resolution 2371 (2017), that the sanctions regime does not have a negative effect on the humanitarian situation in the country.

Finally, as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), I will continue our efforts to ensure the entire United Nations membership's comprehensive and further implementation of the sanctions regime. We will soon be organizing another briefing open to the whole membership on resolution 2371 (2017), and I hereby appeal to all Member States to attend it. An effective sanctions regime will continue to be essential to ensuring that the leadership of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea calculates the price of its challenge to the international community and comes back to the negotiating table for credible multilateral talks.

Ms. Schoulgin-Nyoni (Sweden): I would like to thank Mr. Feltman for his briefing.

Just a few days after we last met to discuss the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (see S/PV.8034), we once again find ourselves called together to respond to Pyongyang's provocative actions. Sweden condemns yesterday's nuclear test in the strongest possible terms. It clearly represents a threat to international peace and

security, an unacceptable provocation and a breach of the international obligations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in defiance of numerous Security Council resolutions. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's dangerous and destabilizing course of action further exacerbates its precarious humanitarian situation in another example of the regime's determination to pursue its nuclear ambitions with utter disregard for the well-being of its own people.

This latest action further raises the tensions in the region, already heightened as a result of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's actions in recent months. The potential for mistakes, misunderstandings and miscalculations is high. There is a pressing need for measures to reduce those tensions and to consider how the Council can facilitate a comprehensive solution to the situation. We renew our call to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abandon the dangerous path it is pursuing, comply with its international obligations and take positive steps in line with the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The Council must deliver a firm response and remain united in the face of the threat to peace that the actions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea represent, not only to its neighbours and the region but to global non-proliferation generally. We are ready to explore new sanctions, but to have the desired effect, sanctions must be duly implemented. That is also a matter of credibility for the United Nations system. All countries have a duty to effectively implement the relevant sanctions in line with the Security Council's resolutions. Yet the sanctions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continue to be implemented inadequately and extremely inconsistently. All States Members of the United Nations must do their utmost in that regard. The Council should make full use of the tools at its disposal, and in that context, we look forward to the briefing on 11 September by the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) and to discussing further measures to strengthen the implementation of the sanctions already in force.

Sanctions alone, however, will not solve the situation on the Korean peninsula, and there can be no military solution to this tense situation. In the light of the continually growing tensions, we urgently need to avoid escalation and take steps to prepare for a peaceful, diplomatic and comprehensive solution to the problem. Intensified, creative diplomatic efforts

are urgently needed. A medium-security mechanism should be a medium-term goal. The pursuit of weapons of mass destruction represents an extremely grave threat to international peace and security. Preventing the development and use of such weapons is one of the Council's crucial responsibilities. Sweden stands united with Council members in condemning actions that jeopardize international peace and security.

Mr. Llorentty Solíz (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): We would like to thank Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, for the information he has given us on the recent events that have led to the convening of this emergency meeting.

Bolivia firmly and energetically condemns the underground nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 3 September. According to press reports, it was 10 times more powerful than that conducted in 2016, and 100 times more powerful than the country's first nuclear test, in 2006. Based on its pacifist status, Bolivia rejects all nuclear tests, as well as the proliferation of nuclear weapons, in accordance with the various international treaties on the subject. We also reject the manufacture of such arms, in line with the ban on nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, better known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco, under which Latin America and the Caribbean became the world's first nuclear-weapon-free zone, and we call for that example to be followed in other regions.

We would like to echo the words of the Secretary-General on the subject when he said that

"[t]his act is yet another serious breach of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's international obligations and undermines international non-proliferation and disarmament efforts."

We therefore urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abandon its nuclear and ballistic-missile programmes fully, verifiably and irreversibly, and to comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

We also urge all the parties involved to avoid the increasing tensions and escalating rhetoric that are putting international peace and security in jeopardy, especially on the Korean peninsula, and especially to avoid any provocative or unilateral acts and any act that infringes international law or the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. We urge them to halt this spiral into confrontation and threats of military force,

including a nuclear response, which can only lead to a major catastrophe.

Once again, we reiterate our welcome of, and support for, the Chinese initiative of dual restraint, which seeks to enable a simultaneous freeze on actions on the peninsula. We also support the efforts to revive a path to the resumption of negotiations. We emphasize the importance of compliance with the Charter's provision that the Security Council is the sole body legally empowered to take measures needed to maintain or restore international peace and security and that any unilateral action is to be eschewed. In that regard, we reject unilateral sanctions, which not only constitute a flagrant violation of international law but also undermine the work of multilateral organizations such as ours and seek to impose one State's jurisdiction and domestic legislation on another, in violation of the principles of the equality, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

Sanctions are not an end in themselves, and there can be no military solution to the situation on the Korean peninsula. In that regard, we remind the parties involved of their duty to comply with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 71/86, adopted on 5 December 2016, which reaffirms support for the Six-Party Talks, and in accordance with paragraph 27 of Security Council resolution 2371 (2017), which calls for the resumption of the Talks with the goal of achieving the peaceful and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Lastly, Bolivia reiterates its call to all the parties involved to reject the possibility of any kind of military solution or threat of the use of force and to resume a dialogue and negotiations aimed at a peaceful, diplomatic and political settlement that, we repeat, can ultimately lead to the Korean peninsula's denuclearization.

Mr. Nebenzia (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank Mr. Jeffrey Feltman for his briefing on the latest North Korean nuclear test.

The provocative nuclear missile activity by Pyongyang recently gained dangerous momentum. We are deeply troubled by the testing of a thermonuclear explosive device for an intercontinental ballistic missile, as announced by Pyongyang officials. There is no doubt that we are experiencing one of the gravest and most dramatic stages of developments on the Korean peninsula. It is no exaggeration to state that peace in the region is being sorely tested, and the threat of this

conflict morphing into an active conflict is greater than ever.

The latest blatant display of North Korea's disregard of the relevant Security Council resolutions and the norms of international law warrants the most vehement condemnation. We cannot but regret the fact that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea leadership, through its action to undermine the global non-proliferation regime, is posing a grave threat to peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and globally. The pursuit of such a policy is fraught with serious repercussions for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea itself.

At the same time, it is evident to us that military solutions cannot settle the issues plaguing the North Korean peninsula. Given the unfolding situation, there is an urgent need to maintain a cool head and to refrain from any action that could further escalate tensions. We reaffirm the need for comprehensive and full compliance by all stakeholders with the relevant Security Council statements and resolutions, including the recent resolution 2371 (2017), adopted by consensus.

Many today delved into the history of attempts to halt the Democratic People's Republic of Korea nuclear and ballistic programme. That historical exploration only serves as evidence that we have failed to resolve this issue through Security Council resolutions that were geared only towards leveraging sanctions mechanisms. We call upon all stakeholders to immediately return to dialogue and negotiations, as that is the only way to comprehensively settle the issues besetting the Korean peninsula — including nuclear issues. We reaffirm our willingness to engage in concerted efforts along those lines, including in the context of the implementation of the Russian-Chinese road map.

The Russian Federation calls on the international community to not yield to emotions and to act in a calm and balanced way. We once again stress that a comprehensive settlement to the nuclear and other issues plaguing the Korean peninsula can be arrived at solely through political and diplomatic channels, including by leveraging the mediation efforts of the Secretary-General.

Mr. Rosselli (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): The seriousness of the item under consideration notwithstanding, I would like to express my delegation's congratulations to you, Mr. President, upon your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council,

as well as to thank Egypt for carrying out its duties as President of the Council during the month of August. We also thank the delegations of the United States, France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Korea for having convened this meeting. I would also like in particular to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, for his briefing — which my delegation fully supports. Uruguay is gratified that an issue of this nature should be addressed today in an open meeting of the Security Council. We believe that goes a long way towards lending transparency to the Council's working methods and helps optimize its operation.

Uruguay expresses its most emphatic condemnation of the detonation of a nuclear weapon yesterday by North Korea — the sixth such test it has carried out since 2006. The paradox is that the world is moving in a different direction when it comes to weapons of mass destruction and denuclearization. No one carries out such nuclear tests anymore — only North Korea — in flagrant violation of Security Council resolutions, with a clear confrontational stance and, what is worse, in utter contempt of the adverse effects those tests could have on its own territory, its own people and its neighbouring countries.

Last week, on the International Day against Nuclear Tests, my delegation echoed the call of the international community for the swift entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Promoting the universality and entry into force of the Treaty must be a priority in addressing the danger that the carrying out of nuclear tests poses to the international community. We regret the obstinate behaviour of North Korea. As has been pointed out several times here in the Chamber, it is the only country that has carried out nuclear tests in the twenty-first century. Its actions are a serious threat to international peace and security and a flagrant violation of the resolutions of the Council. Those nuclear tests and the launching of ballistic missiles are a continuous provocation of the international community, and they exacerbate instability in the Korean peninsula and tension in the zone.

As such, Uruguay once again urges North Korea to completely abandon its nuclear programme, in a verifiable and irreversible manner, and immediately halt all related activities, including the launching of ballistic missiles using proscribed technology and other provocative actions. We also urge it to return to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and

the International Atomic Energy Agency's safeguards regime. We reiterate our call for strict compliance with the resolutions adopted by this organ.

We must continue to develop actions and measures that are in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Our delegation is ready to consider the adoption of new and more robust sanctions in the Council. However, as has been pointed out here in the Chamber as well, it is necessary to ensure the effective implementation of sanctions by all Member States, while avoiding adverse humanitarian consequences for the people of North Korea.

Uruguay is of the view that a solution to this delicate situation can come about only in the form of diplomacy, in the context of an international strategy to which all countries are firmly committed — in particular those with influence in the Korean peninsula. As part of that process, it is crucial to safeguard the unity of the Security Council and to act with a single voice in search of a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Mr. Umarov (Kazakhstan): We would like to commend the delegation of Egypt for its very able presidency last month, as well as to congratulate our Ethiopian colleagues on taking up the proceedings of the Security Council. We thank the Ethiopian presidency for the prompt convening of this meeting of the Council. I also thank Under-Secretary-General Jeffrey Feltman for his briefing as well as the delegations of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Japan and the Republic of Korea for calling for today's meeting on this most flagrant violation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It is absolutely unacceptable for the international community to have to see the detonation of bombs by North Korea through the six nuclear tests it has undertaken in the twenty-first century. Such actions undermine the collective efforts of the international community to establish a nuclear-weapon-free world. It is even more frustrating to receive this news just as we have celebrated the International Day against Nuclear Tests. It should be noted that General Assembly resolution 64/35, establishing the International Day against Nuclear Tests, was unanimously adopted by all Member States, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The world once again calls on the North Korean regime to abandon its nuclear ambitions and return to

the negotiating table. At the recent special meeting of the General Assembly, all participating Member States unanimously condemned the nuclear threat caused by Pyongyang's provocative actions.

We believe that in the light of today's tensions, we have to continue tirelessly to seek mutually acceptable solutions, with a view to achieving concrete agreements — both bilateral and multilateral — on freezing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear programme and to initiate the step-by-step denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. No matter what the cost, we must not slide into fuelling the conflict, the consequences of which will be most hazardous not only for North Korea itself but also for regional and international security. The military approach has never led to any sustainable and lasting solution of the problem.

Kazakhstan holds the firm conviction that nuclear weapons are not a true guarantor of national security. The global nuclear-weapon Powers and the international community have demonstrated that ensuring one's own defence through the possession of weapons of mass destruction is not a viable strategy.

As a country that has survived the horrors and tragedy of the consequences of nuclear testing, we firmly believe that nothing can justify conducting such inhuman acts. We stand in solidarity with the countries of the region as well as the entire world to find a comprehensive and collective solution to the situation. A new bold diplomatic and political plan, combined with smart and robust actions, is necessary if we are to avert the dangerous trend towards nuclear-weapon development on the Korean peninsula. We call on all member States to join in this effort.

We strongly call on Pyongyang to change its course and think about a prosperous and non-nuclear future for itself and the region. We hope that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and others can learn from the very clear and undisputed example of Kazakhstan, which not only renounced its nuclear weapons but, together with its Central Asian neighbours, created a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Once again, we call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to heed the message of humankind and seek the path of prudence and dialogue.

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): Egypt vehemently condemns the nuclear test that was

conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea early yesterday, 3 September, and, through our ongoing commitment to the importance of safeguarding the credibility of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, we stand by this position.

There is a need to uphold the credibility of the Security Council itself. We reject any double standards in this regard and we are committed to setting an example in dealing conscientiously and strictly with any threat posed to the nuclear non-proliferation regime, regardless of any of the justifications that may be put forward. Egypt fully grasps the nature of the threats posed by North Korea in its violation of Security Council resolutions; these threats are a danger to international and regional peace and security, particularly in North-East Asia.

Egypt calls on North Korea to immediately cease all violations and activities that are in breach of Security Council resolutions and urges it to refrain from any action that might further escalate tensions or jeopardize international and region stability and security. Egypt reaffirms its condemnation of all such violations. We also reaffirm our support for the Security Council assuming its responsibility in this regard.

Egypt once again reiterates its call on all stakeholders to seek to find a peaceful settlement to the issues plaguing the Korean peninsula, craft a solution that eliminates all nuclear weapons, establish a lasting peace between the two Koreas and show restraint in line with provisions of Security Council resolutions aimed at safeguarding peace, stability and international security, with a view to breaking this very dangerous vicious cycle of ongoing violations of Security Council resolutions by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In this context, Egypt once again welcomes any initiative or constructive idea that can lead to a denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and to a lasting peace in the region.

I would like to conclude by once again voicing our great interest in safeguarding Security Council unity in dealing with a matter that is of concern to us all. In ensuring international unity, it is a *sine qua non* that the goals of the various measures adopted by the Council be attained.

Mr. Seck (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to thank the American, British, French and Japanese delegations for calling for today's emergency meeting of the Security Council. I would also like to

take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. President, for having agreed to convene it so swiftly. I also offer thanks to the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Feltman, for having given us a clear and factual briefing.

Once again, we find ourselves brought together following the latest in a long line of acts of defiance against the international community, in particular the Security Council, carried out by the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, namely, the nuclear test carried out yesterday, Sunday, by Pyongyang, which stated publicly that it had successfully tested a thermonuclear hydrogen bomb of unprecedented power, which could be installed on its new intercontinental missiles. This sixth nuclear test by North Korea follows the two that were conducted last year and the tenth ballistic missile launch, which was carried out just last week. Together with the international community, Senegal strongly condemns in the strongest possible terms this attitude of defiance by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which are a yet another serious breach of its international obligations, undermines international non-proliferation and disarmament efforts and greatly heightens tensions and strategic instability in the Korean peninsula and even beyond.

Once again, the credibility of the Security Council is put to the test. Despite all the Council's resolutions, all sanctions and other measures taken against North Korea, the country's authorities, far from having relinquished their military nuclear ambitions, are now going so far as to call into question the very authority of the Security Council to take up the problem posed by its illegal military nuclear programme. There is indeed a problem. What more must we do to make that country come to its senses and respect its international obligations in this area in a clear, irreversible and verifiable manner? But the Council must first remain united and firm in its condemnation of those actions and in its resolve to adopt the new necessary measures, in accordance with its prior resolutions, including the latest, resolution 2371 (2017).

Each and every State Member of the United Nations must also implement the provisions of the many resolutions and sanctions imposed on North Korea, however complex they may be. In that regard, the regular briefings and special informational meetings convened by Italy, in its capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718

(2006), concerning the implementation of sanctions, remain of great importance.

In conclusion, and as we all agree that there can be no military solution, my country urges the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to respect the resolutions of the Security Council, end its illegal military nuclear programme, refrain from threatening to use weapons of mass destruction against States Members of the United Nations, and return to the negotiating table in the framework of the Six-Party Talks, which it chose to abandon several years ago.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Ethiopia.

We believe that the situation surrounding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is becoming progressively more complex and increasingly fraught with incalculable danger, not only for the Korean peninsula but for global peace and security as a whole.

The latest nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is indeed a dangerous escalation, with potentially catastrophic consequences. We join all Council members in condemning it in the strongest possible terms. This latest provocation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea came only a few days after we adopted presidential statement S/PRST/2017/16, which calls on it to abandon all nuclear weapons and to immediately cease all related activities, while also underscoring the need for a peaceful diplomatic and political solution to the situation.

There have indeed been overtures in that direction, but they have not been seized. Without any doubt, the recent nuclear tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea clearly indicate that we might be at the edge of a cliff. We agree with all Council members that we are in a very dangerous phase of this problem. We believe that the Council should use all means at its disposal to bring the Democratic People's Republic of Korea back to the negotiating table, and we are open to proposals that could be considered in that regard.

We hope that we will be able to take appropriate action to bring pressure to bear on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, while maintaining the unity of the Council on this very delicate issue, which has far-reaching implications for peace and security on the Korean peninsula and beyond. We attach extremely great importance to the unity of the Council on this matter.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Cho Tae-yul (Republic of Korea): At the outset, I would like to thank you, Sir, for convening this emergency meeting of the Security Council on North Korea's sixth nuclear test, which was conducted this past Saturday. I am also grateful to be invited to take part in this important discussion.

It is with a deep sense of disappointment, frustration and even anger that I address the Council today. One year ago, when North Korea conducted its fifth nuclear test, the Security Council issued a stern warning that North Korea's continued nuclear and missile provocation would not be tolerated (see S/PV.7821). Despite that warning, however, North Korea has since fired 20 ballistic missiles, on more than 15 occasions, in flagrant violation of multiple Security Council resolutions. While spending considerable amounts of time and energy in responding to such reckless ballistic missile provocations by North Korea, we held on to one last ray of hope that North Korea might, at least, refrain from additional nuclear tests.

Regrettably, yet again, the country has chosen a dangerous path in defiance of the stern warning of the international community. The nuclear test conducted by North Korea two days ago has proven to be its most powerful thus far. Since the two intercontinental ballistic missile launches in July, which led to the adoption of resolution 2371 (2017) on 5 August, North Korea has been maximizing the level of threat and now claims that the purpose of the most recent test is to develop nuclear warheads to install on top of its intercontinental ballistic missiles.

North Korea's do-or-die behaviour has invited a very harsh and scathing reaction from the international community. Indeed, over the past two days, numerous States from around the world have spoken in a unified voice by issuing statements strongly condemning North Korea's nuclear test. Even those countries that have been trying to be as sympathetic as possible vis-à-vis North Korea's security concerns have added their own voice to such condemnations without exception this time. That is clear evidence that North Korea's recent nuclear test is an immense challenge that threatens peace and security not only on the Korean peninsula or in North-East Asia, but in the entire world.

Therefore, the Security Council must respond to this serious provocation with the adoption of a new draft resolution including much tougher measures corresponding to the magnitude and gravity of the test. Now is the time to take measures that are strong and robust enough to compel North Korea to seriously engage in dialogue. The new draft resolution must include not only additional measures to further block funds that could possibly flow into North Korea's illegal weapons of mass destruction programme, but also truly biting and robust ones that Pyongyang would find very painful.

Just five days ago, we celebrated the International Day against Nuclear Tests in an informal meeting of the General Assembly. A number of Member States gathered together to commemorate that special day and engaged in a very serious discussion. Virtually all the representatives of the participating Member States who took the floor during the meeting strongly condemned North Korea — the only country that has conducted nuclear tests in the twenty-first century — and called on the country to immediately halt further nuclear tests. But just a couple of days later, North Korea conducted yet another nuclear test. A voluntary moratorium on nuclear tests has become today a de facto international norm. Regrettably, however, the world has yet to be free from nuclear tests owing to a single country that continues to stubbornly pursue a retrogressive and destabilizing path. North Korea's delusional aspiration of becoming a nuclear-weapon State is the sole reason

for the existence of the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

We must end that immediately, and I call upon all Member States, including the members of the Council, to take firm and decisive actions to that end. I also call on North Korea to stop pursuing the path of self-destruction and make a strategic decision without further delay to choose the path of denuclearization — the only option and right way to insure its survival. Whether to stick to its current path of self-destruction or redirect itself towards the path of survival is entirely the choice of North Korea.

The President: The representative of the United States of America has asked for the floor to make a further statement.

Mrs. Haley (United States of America): Due to the urgency of the situation concerning the nuclear test, as well as the announcement by North Korea that it is planning another intercontinental ballistic missile test, we urge the Security Council to move very quickly on this. I think that North Korea basically has slapped everyone in the face in the international community that has asked it to stop. The United States delegation therefore will circulate a draft resolution that it would like to negotiate this week and vote on on Monday. I just wanted to let the members of the Council know. I know that some are going on mission to Addis Ababa, but we wanted to make sure that we will do that on Monday when we will be able to finalize those negotiations.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.



Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8040th meeting

Tuesday, 5 September 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Ms. Guadey (Ethiopia)

Members:

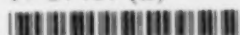
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Inchauste Jordán
China	Mr. Shen Bo
Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
France	Mr. Delattre
Italy	Mr. Lambertini
Japan	Mr. Bessho
Kazakhstan	Mr. Tumysh
Russian Federation	Mr. Nebenzia
Senegal	Mr. Ciss
Sweden	Mr. Vaverka
Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ..	Mr. Hickey
United States of America	Ms. Tachco
Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez

Agenda

The situation in Mali

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Mali

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Mali to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2017/748, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2374 (2017).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. Delattre (France) (spoke in French): France welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2374 (2017), which establishes a specific sanctions regime on Mali.

The adoption of resolution 2374 (2017) is the result of a request by the Malian Government to the Security Council to establish a sanctions regime, without delay, in order to meet the numerous challenges in implementing the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, and in overcoming serious threats to the fragile gains made thus far. The idea to impose sanctions on those hindering the implementation of the peace agreement is not a new one. It is clearly stipulated in the text of the Agreement and therefore formally endorsed by all signatories. It has been mentioned on several occasions

by the Agreement Monitoring Committee in response to the deadlock. The Secretary-General has often called for such sanctions in his quarterly reports on the situation in Mali, and the Security Council has supported the idea in its most recent resolutions on Mali.

The Malian Government believes — and we share that belief — that it is time to take further steps on the issue by implementing a specific sanctions regime on Mali. The peace process is now at a critical juncture, more than two years after the Agreement was signed. Although progress has been satisfactory, political will has been lacking, to some extent, and certain activities pose a serious threat to the gains already made. The sanctions regime will complement in a useful way the range of tools that we have available to us collectively to help Mali with its recovery. It also sends a very strong and dissuasive political message capable of changing the behaviour of actors on the ground. It will provide credibility to the Council in its support of the effective implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, in favour of which we have been arguing for a number of months without, to date, being able to achieve the desired results. It is also a means of accompanying the work of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) on the political aspect.

Resolution 2374 (2017), which we have just adopted, puts in place a sanctions regime that takes the form of a travel ban and assets freeze, under criteria that were designated in keeping with the guidelines set out by the Peace Agreement with respect to violations of the ceasefire and obstruction of the implementation of the Agreement. We have added to that attacks on various institutions that were established by the Agreement, the Malian armed forces, United Nations staff and other forms of international presence, as well as other criteria connected with all forms of trafficking, violations of human rights, obstruction of the dispatch of humanitarian assistance, and the use of children in armed conflict.

In order to move forward in a gradual and appropriate manner, France has chosen to suggest to its partners in the Council that we take the first step of creating a regime without attaching, at this stage, a list of persons or entities that would be subject to sanctions. That possibility, however, is still fully open if it turns out to be necessary in the future to further bolster the pressure on certain actors that do not adhere to their obligations. We are aware that sanctions alone cannot

resolve the situation. We see them as an additional tool to promote the implementation of the Peace Agreement, along with the necessary mobilization of the international community, regional actors and MINUSMA. Today, it is vital that we make as much progress as possible. Time is not on our side, and the implementation of the Malian Peace Agreement is one of the keys to the stabilization of the situation in the Sahel, to which the Council is committed.

The establishment of this new sanctions regime today places the actors involved in bringing about peace in Mali before their commitments and sends a strong political message with respect to the determination of the Council to use every means available to it to help Mali achieve peace and stability, and to encourage significant progress in the implementation of the Agreement in the weeks to come. Anyone who impedes this process must realize that the Council will no longer tolerate their action. What is at stake is much too important, and we know the impact of the situation in Mali for the stability of the entire Sahel region, and the relevant consequences with regard to the security of the rest of the world.

Mr. Lambertini (Italy) (*spoke in French*): Italy voted in favour of resolution 2374 (2017) and affirms its support for the peace process in Mali. The rapid and effective implementation of the provisions of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali remains top priority with a view to ensuring peace and security in Mali and the Sahel region as a whole. The resolution provides additional tools, demonstrating the Security Council's commitment to pursuing this collective goal.

We would like to conclude by thanking the French delegation for the success of these negotiations, and by welcoming the full commitment demonstrated by the Malian Government on this occasion.

Mr. Nebenzia (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian delegation voted in favour of resolution 2374 (2017), mindful of the importance of maintaining the Council's consensus support for the peace settlement in Mali. We take note of the fact that the Malian Government, seeking to accelerate the stabilization of the northern territories, appealed to the Security Council, and we are concerned about the security situation and the resumption of clashes between the parties signatory to the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali.

At the same time, we note that the excessive use of restrictive measures may lead the Security Council to drift away from its direct obligations in the maintenance of international peace and security, ending armed conflicts and promoting the reconciliation of parties, and to deteriorate into a mere sanctions truncheon. Whether sanctions are effective in other contexts is already the subject of serious doubt. Of the examples provided by the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Yemen, none points to the usefulness of sanctions in the process of a settlement. Indeed, the opposite is true. Sanctions antagonize, make it more difficult for the parties to negotiate and complicate the political process.

In our view, if we are to make progress in the matter, we need to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the Malian crisis. We must find out exactly what its sources and underlying causes are, and determine the sources of instability. We must not forget that the security situation in the Sahel degenerated after the foreign intervention in Libya in 2011 and the destruction of the Libyan State.

A few years ago, we proposed that a full-fledged plan of action be drafted for the Sahel region. We believe that the time has now come to seriously consider that option and to move away from the specific situation, basing our action on the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. We are ready for active cooperation with all interested parties on both the Mali and the Sahel issues.

I take this opportunity to inform the members of the Council of the following.

As we all know, today at the Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa Summit, the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, declared that the Russian Federation would submit to the Security Council a draft resolution on the establishment of a United Nations mission to strengthen the protection of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. The presence there of United Nations peacekeepers, which would provide security for the OSCE Mission, is something that we deem to be appropriate. That would advance a solution to the problem in south-eastern Ukraine.

Of course, however, one can only refer to the task of providing security to OSCE staff. Now, those forces must remain along the separating lines and not in any

other territories. The issue can be resolved only after the two sides have been separated and heavy equipment has been removed. We have sent a draft resolution to the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General, and we cherish the hope that in the near future it will be circulated to the members of the Council. We intend to convene relevant consultations at the expert level. Then, after the Security Council mission has returned from Ethiopia, we shall hold consultations at the Permanent Representative level.

Mr. Yelchenko (Ukraine): Although we are still on the item concerning Mali, because the Ambassador of the Russian Federation mentioned my country, I would like to react very briefly.

We took careful note of the statement made by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation on the intention to circulate a draft resolution on the possibility of deploying United Nations peacekeepers in the Donbas.

There is a saying: "Water wears away the stone". I would like to remind everybody that back in March 2015, the President of Ukraine addressed the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General on the same issue, requesting the Security Council to consider the possibility of the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation. In Ukraine, we consider that such deployment could greatly contribute to the restoration of peace and security in the east of Ukraine, which was undermined, as everyone knows, as a result of Russia's aggression and continued support of the separatists in Donbas.

Having said that, we consider that the mandate of such a mission should be carefully crafted, and our delegation is ready to take an active part in its consideration as soon as the Security Council delegation comes back from Ethiopia.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.



Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8041st meeting

 Monday, 11 September 2017, 10 a.m.
 New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Alemu	(Ethiopia)
<i>Members:</i>	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Llorentty Soliz
	China	Mr. Zhang Dianbin
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	France	Mrs. Gueguen
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Japan	Mr. Bessho
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Nebenzia
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Mr. Skoog
	Ukraine	Mr. Vitrenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ..	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez

Agenda

Identical letters dated 19 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2016/53)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (S/2017/745)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Identical letters dated 19 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2016/53)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (S/2017/745)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Colombia to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Jean Arnault, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in Colombia, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/745, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia.

I now give the floor to Mr. Arnault.

Mr. Arnault: I am grateful for the opportunity to brief the Council on the implementation of its resolution 2366 (2017), of 10 July 2017, in which it decided to establish, at the request of the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP), the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, to begin its activities in two weeks, on 26 September.

But prior to doing so, let me underline what is, politically speaking, the culmination of the ceasefire, cessation-of-hostilities and weapons laydown process that has unfolded since the signing of the Final Peace Agreement on 24 November of last year, namely, the formal transformation, after 53 years of armed conflict, of the former Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army into a political party, whose founding congress took place in Bogotá two weeks ago.

The Congress, which elected the party's new leadership and executive secretariat and adopted its political platform, took place exactly one year after the declaration of the bilateral and definitive ceasefire, on 29 August 2016. This gives us a measure of the momentous developments that have taken place in the past 12 months and of the intense political will that was required from both sides to drive this process forward.

The resolution requested that the current mission should begin provisional verification activities anticipated by the Verification Mission, and the Council will soon receive, together with the Mission's last report, our initial verification of the FARC's reintegration and the implementation of security guarantees in the areas hardest hit by the armed conflict.

The Council also requested that we initiate preparations now, including on the ground, to ensure the smoothest possible transition to the Verification Mission. Allow me therefore to supplement the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/745) on the size, operational aspects and mandate of the new mission with a summary of the measures taken since 10 July to fulfil the Council's request.

These include the establishment at all levels — local, regional and national — of transitional teams with civilian personnel and observers, who have begun verification related to the new Mission's mandate; the identification of staffing needs for the next Mission and the advertisement of priority positions pending approval of the Secretary-General's report by the Security Council, and the decisions of the General Assembly; and the careful selection of observers from the current Mission who would be retained for the upcoming mission so as to ensure adequate representation of current contributing countries. In doing so, we have placed special emphasis on retaining women observers with both military and police background. This will ensure an unprecedented percentage of women among the observers of the Verification Mission.

A deployment plan has also been finalized that ensures an appropriate skill set, geographical distribution and gender balance at the local, regional and national levels. Reconnaissance visits have taken place to all prospective team sites and sub-offices, in particular with a view to identifying possible areas of collocation with the United Nations country team. Potential logistics contractors have been contacted in connection with the new Mission's transport and

accommodation needs. In addition, a request was made to United Nations Headquarters for a series of exemptions and measures to facilitate the smooth transition between the two Missions.

Finally, in response to the Council's call for coordination with the United Nations system, we have already put in place the joint working groups on reintegration and security guarantees between the Mission and the United Nations country team to ensure full consistency between the implementation and the verification sides of the United Nations in Colombia. In summary, although the time frame was tight, the sum total of these efforts carried out under the Council's authority have put us on track to start the Verification Mission on time. It will be in a position to fulfil its mandate on day one.

One pending issue is the settlement of accounts deriving from the cost-sharing arrangements between the United Nations and the Government of Colombia related to the operation of the tripartite Monitoring and Verification Mechanism. In cooperation with the Colombian Government, United Nations Headquarters and the Mission are working hard towards resolving outstanding issues before the completion of our Mission's mandate.

As the Council is aware, last week, on 4 September, the Government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army reached agreement on a temporary ceasefire that would start on 1 October and end on 12 January 2018. The ceasefire should be accompanied by a series of measures aimed at improving the humanitarian situation of communities in the conflict areas. The agreement provides that the United Nations would assist with the verification of the commitments made. I met with both heads of delegations who have confirmed their interest in the United Nations involvement and members of the Mission have already engaged with the technical commitment mission on the ceasefire. Further discussions starting this week will hopefully enable the Secretary-General to make recommendations to the Council in the very near future.

In the past few days, before millions of Colombians assembled in several cities, Pope Francis delivered a very strong message in favour of reconciliation, forgiveness and confidence in the future to a society that bears the scars of decades of conflict and struggles to imagine a Colombia free from ubiquitous, relentless violence. Thankfully, over the past months the peace

process between the Government and FARC-EP has slowly but steadily tipped the scales in favour of hope.

We trust that the presence of the United Nations, the work of the United Nations system and the support of the Security Council can and should shore up further the confidence of Colombian society in the stable peace to which its citizens so ardently aspire.

The President: I thank Mr. Arnault for his briefing.

I now give the floor to those Council members who wish to make statements.

Mr. Skoog (Sweden): I thank Special Representative Jean Arnault for his comprehensive briefing this morning and for the work he does on the ground in Colombia. He can remain absolutely certain of Sweden's continued strong support for his efforts, for the United Nations Mission in Colombia and for the second Mission, as described in the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/745).

We commend the strong commitment to peace of both parties in Colombia and their efforts to overcome challenges to the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement. A sustained effort is now needed from the State at the central, regional and local levels, as well as the United Nations system and the international community, in support of the Agreement. This must include comprehensive rural reform, so that all Colombians can share in the tangible dividends of peace. The political, economic and social reincorporation of former combatants into society is an integral part of that process. Violence against human rights defenders and community leaders demonstrates the urgent need for the second United Nations Mission to also verify the implementation of personal and collective security guarantees, as requested by the parties.

We welcome the focus on the second Mission having a strong presence locally and regionally, which must be robust enough to allow proper verification of security and reintegration. We also welcome the strong emphasis on coordination and cooperation with the United Nations country team, as we just heard. We would also like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the work that the Mission has undertaken regarding the inclusion and participation of women, which, as the report points out, has been an important contributing factor for the success of the Mission so far. Sweden is pleased to be able to contribute to the current United Nations Mission and

it stands ready to continue to support the succeeding Mission with personnel.

We welcome the recently announced ceasefire between the Government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army. The fact that the parties have indicated an interest in having the United Nations verify the implementation of the ceasefire is testimony to the success of the current Verification Mission. The United Nations and the Security Council must now stand prepared to assist the parties moving forward.

We note the commitment by National Liberation Army to cease the recruitment of minors. As Chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, we would like to highlight the Working Group's conclusions on Colombia from February this year which, *inter alia*, encouraged the parties to ensure that child protection is given due consideration as early as possible in the peace process and that it is a core priority.

Peace in Colombia is now taking root. As the people of Colombia and their leaders continue to consolidate the gains made, we must all continue to stand by their side. Sweden is committed to doing so.

Mr. Bessho (Japan): I would like to thank Mr. Jean Arnault, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his encouraging briefing and his good work on the ground.

We will soon witness the successful completion of the first United Nations Mission in Colombia and the laying down of arms process. We congratulate the Colombian people for taking this historic step. Japan is very pleased by the mutual confidence and good faith demonstrated between the Government and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) during this process. We commend Special Representative of the Secretary-General Arnault and his team, international observers and civilian staff for their excellent work in close coordination with the parties. The Council's decision to respond to the Colombian-initiated request by establishing the United Nations Mission was the right one.

We take note of the Secretary-General's recommendations on the United Nations Verification Mission, based on consultations with the stakeholders. Japan is ready to constructively discuss a draft resolution. We note the importance of continued close coordination between the Mission and the United Nations country team and the seamless transition of the

Missions. The whole-of-United Nations approach will remain critical. Ultimately, long-term success depends on the determination and commitment demonstrated by the parties. We look forward to their continued efforts during the second Mission's deployment.

The social and economic reintegration process is a delicate and challenging part of the peace process. To guarantee genuine peace, FARC members who have laid down arms must be able to fully participate in economic and social life in Colombia as soon as possible. Sufficient resources and security guarantees are essential. FARC must also observe the Peace Agreement and make efforts to fully reintegrate into society.

We take note of the establishment of several legal mechanisms at the national level for reintegration, as well as for security. It is vital that they function effectively and coherently on the ground, including after the elections. Strong coordination efforts by the Government are important to achieve maximum results.

Another piece of positive news is the temporary ceasefire announcement between the Government and the National Liberation Army on 4 September. We welcome the ceasefire and strongly hope that it will lead to productive peace negotiations between the parties as well as bolster the current peace process, in general. We appreciate the efforts made by the guarantors, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Norway and Venezuela, as well as the Catholic Church. We look forward to their continued support for the peace negotiations.

In conclusion, Japan reiterates its support for the parties in implementing the Peace Agreement, and once again commends the United Nations Mission in Colombia for its vital work. Japan will continue to support the people of Colombia through the efforts of the second mission.

Mr. Bermúdez (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): I am grateful to the Secretary-General for his report of 30 August (S/2017/745) and to Special Representative Jean Arnault for the briefing he just delivered. Moreover, we commend him on the efficient work that he has carried out at the head of the United Nations Mission in Colombia. The important announcement of the Final Peace Agreement between the Government of Colombia and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia — Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) on the Bilateral and Definitive Ceasefire and the Cessation of Hostilities and the Laying down of Arms for 102 days is

generating hope that peace in Colombia, in addition to being stable and lasting, will be comprehensive.

Following the adoption of resolution 2366 (2017) on 10 July, establishing the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia and the culmination on 15 August of the extraction of all weapons and the destruction of all existing munitions in the 26 camps of the FARC-EP, we have received encouraging news that underscores steady progress in the consolidation of the peace process in Colombia. It is extremely important that the United Nations now give its full support so as to ensure a successful political, economic and social integration of the members of FARC-EP, and to implement measures ensuring their security.

Without doubt, the report of the Secretary-General once again reflects the commitment of the United Nations to the peace process in Colombia, and shows his receptiveness to the requests of the parties and their readiness to take up without delay the verification mandate with which it has been entrusted. It is important to highlight that the report underlines that its recommendations are the result of consultations held with the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP. That is a key point because we must not forget that the process must always be guided by the main stakeholders.

The detailed information provided with regard to the mandates, size, structure and operational aspects of the new Mission demonstrates the organization and seriousness of the task that the United Nations is carrying out, with the work that has already been carried out by the current Mission and in cooperation and continuous coordination with the United Nations country team in Colombia, as well as the Government of Colombia and FARC-EP.

We must now move towards implementing all points of the Final Peace Agreement and enhance our efforts to avoid delays and maximize interinstitutional coordination so as to prevent any weakening of confidence between the parties in the process, based on respect for mutual obligations. We welcome the series of mechanisms and measures that have already been implemented for the reintegration of FARC-EP, and to ensure that security measures are implemented, which will benefit from the experience of the United Nations system in thematic areas, such as gender issues, child protection, human rights and ethnic and indigenous issues. It is also important to know that the Mission will be deployed with a view to ensuring its presence in

the rural areas most affected by the conflict, which are also those in which the reintegration of the members of FARC-EP is taking place.

The commitments that have been assumed, upheld and championed by the parties, the measures and mechanisms that are already under way to ensure the implementation of those commitments, and the important role played by the United Nations Verification Mission are elements that together reaffirm our confidence in the establishment of stable and lasting peace in Colombia, which we are now on the verge of completion. Uruguay therefore call on everyone to spare no effort to provide every form of assistance that the stakeholders in the peace process have requested of the Organization. As we have on previous occasions, we reaffirm our support for the peace process in Colombia and for the main stakeholders, in the hope of seeing the National Liberation Army become one of the leading actors in that process.

Mr. Umarov (Kazakhstan): I would like to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in Colombia Jean Arnault for his comprehensive briefing and commend his and the United Nations Mission's contribution to the successful completion of the first stage of the Final Peace Agreement. Kazakhstan welcomes all positive recent developments and major milestones and achievements that occurred in fulfilling the peace process in Colombia.

The transition of the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) from a rebel group to a political party with a new leadership and new logo is a promising sign to ending the decades-long conflict. The finalization of the extraction of FARC weapons has nearly completed the last stage in the process of laying down arms. We welcome the extension of the mandate of the current United Nations Mission for an additional two weeks to conduct operations verifying the destruction of arms caches until the Government of Colombia takes over that task on 15 September.

Kazakhstan commends the recent announcement of the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities between the Government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army. We believe that that will result in a longer-term and more firm ceasefire leading to a lasting settlement in Colombia. We hope that following the historic bilateral ceasefire, the National Liberation Army will cease its acts of kidnapping, attacks on oil pipelines and

atrocities committed against the civilian population, while the Government of Colombia will do its best to improve living conditions for the civilian population in conflict areas and ensure the security of activist leaders and citizens.

We join the Secretary-General in commending the role of the guarantors, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Norway and Venezuela, as well as the Catholic Church in supporting the much needed negotiations. We believe that it is very important to ensure the successful implementation of certain provisions of the Final Peace Agreement, such as the political, economic and social reintegration of former FARC rebels, personal and collective security guarantees and comprehensive programmes on security protection measures for communities and organizations in conflict-affected areas. We therefore emphasize the need for both parties to continue to fulfil their obligations and commitments under the provisions of the Final Agreement. We are of the view that the United Nations Verification Mission will ensure the full implementation of the peace accords and secure the irreversibility of the peace process. It is worth noting that the Verification Mission has taken into account all of the shortcomings and drawbacks encountered during the implementation of the first mandate so as to ensure the success and efficiency of the second mission.

We agree that recruiting a larger number of women for the implementation of the peace process and further deepening collaboration with the United Nations country team to ensure a whole-of-United Nations approach in Colombia are crucial for the efficiency of the Verification Mechanism. We fully endorse the Secretary-General's recommendations with regard to the effective deployment of the second mission in Colombia in terms of geographical representation, staffing and the mandate's structure. Kazakhstan extended its full support for the mandate of the second mission when it co-sponsored resolution 2366 (2017) reiterating its commitment to support the parties in implementing the historic Final Peace Agreement (see S/PV.7997).

Lastly, we realize that the Colombian peace process is not only a guarantee of security and stability in the western hemisphere, it is also a positive example to countries around the world facing similar challenges in the form of long, protracted conflicts. The fact that the Government and the FARC approached the United Nations about helping them to verify the Peace

Agreements' accomplishments makes us confident that the parties are united in their desire to bring a brighter future to Colombia and its people. Kazakhstan would therefore like to congratulate the Government of Colombia on its success in bringing peace and stability to the country and to express its strong support for the parties involved. We stand ready to join the multilateral and regional efforts to accelerate the momentum of a peace process that will ultimately result in stability, progress and prosperity for all Colombians.

Mr. Llorentty Solíz (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): We would like to thank Mr. Jean Arnault, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in Colombia, for sharing with the Security Council the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (S/2017/745).

In the past few months, the Security Council, and the international community as a whole, have seen the peace process in Colombia make extraordinary progress. The ceasefire has been consolidated, culminating in the laying down of arms by the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP), followed this week by the destruction of weapons caches. We note that both sides have taken visible steps towards fulfilling the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace and have shown that they are determined to stay the course, which gives us hope that this long-desired peace can be achieved. We would like to once again commend the Government and the leaders of the FARC for the political leadership they have shown in achieving this goal, and we should not neglect to mention the third corner of this virtuous triangle, that is, the active participation of the victims of the armed conflict. That leadership, along with a bold approach and a spirit of reconciliation, has made this an exemplary process for the whole world.

We would also like to thank and pay tribute to the United Nations Mission in Colombia, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and his entire team, for what they have achieved in a short space of time. There can be no question that the tripartite Monitoring and Verification Mechanism has been fundamental to maintaining and strengthening confidence between the Government and the FARC-EP and could definitely be a model for conflict resolution in other parts of the world.

The men and women who have served as observers in the Mechanism since its launch in 2016 have done an impeccable job, for which we would also like to pay them a sincere tribute — and, if I may, I would like to single out the more than 50 Bolivian soldiers who participated in the first mission. However, we should not forget that there is still much work to be done in response to one of the main focuses of the Peace Agreement — transforming the standard of living of the most vulnerable sectors affected by the conflict and reducing the gap between rural and urban areas. We welcome the efforts that the Government is making in that regard by deploying security forces, establishing the rule of law, promoting the provision of goods and services to the affected areas and creating a special new jurisdiction for peace. We also believe that it will be very important to address the issues of formalizing titles to land in rural areas and improving social security coverage for farmers and peasants. We hope that the international community can provide the necessary cooperation.

As we know, the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia — the country's second Mission — will be responsible for verifying the political, economic and social reintegration of the FARC's more than 10,000 members, as well as the implementation of measures for their safety and security, in accordance with paragraphs 3.2, 3.4 and 6.3 of the Final Agreement, which is unquestionably a complicated part of the process. Bolivia believes that the achievement of sustainable and lasting peace in Colombia depends upon successfully reintegrating the FARC-EP into civilian life. We believe that both the Colombian Government and the FARC will continue to demonstrate political leadership and firm resolve to comply with the agreements and bring peace to their country. For that, it will be essential to ensure that the Security Council is united in support of the Colombian process. In that regard, we have welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts and taken note of the recommendations made for the second Mission. The Council will meet in the next few days to discuss the information in the report, and I am sure that we will continue to work in the same spirit of unity.

Bolivia would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new political party formed by the FARC-EP, which represents a historic step for them as they now legally enter political life. As President Evo Morales Ayma said when we welcomed its founding congress, we support peace, social justice and

sovereignty for Colombia. Today, our revolutions are democratic, achieved with votes, not weapons. We also welcome the agreement reached between the Colombian Government and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional on implementing a temporary bilateral ceasefire, recently announced at the Quito public peace dialogue table.

In conclusion, I would to recall the message of reconciliation that Pope Francis dedicated to the young people of Colombia during his recent visit there, when he said that they can help to be

“the promise of a new beginning for Colombia that leaves behind the floods of discord and violence, a Colombia that wants to bear abundant fruits of justice and peace”.

Mr. Nebenzia (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Today is one of those rare occasions when a delay by the Security Council in adopting a draft resolution is the result of positive developments in events. We welcome the signing in Quito, on 4 September, of the agreement on a temporary ceasefire between the Government of Colombia and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional.

We appreciate the support of Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Norway and Venezuela, the guarantor countries for the peace process. Thanks to their services as mediators, this important agreement has become a reality and, in our view, is an important step towards a permanent ceasefire. We hope that, in conjunction with the successful conduct of the reconciliation process with the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), it will bring us closer to a final settlement of this decades-long internal conflict and the attainment of civil peace in the country.

We thank Mr. Jean Arnault, Head of the United Nations Mission in Colombia, for his briefing, and consider his recommendations to be a helpful basis for informed discussions on the so-called second special political Mission, the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, which will start work as early as 26 September.

We welcome the successful progress in the peace process, particularly the completion of the surrender of weapons and the demobilization of insurgents under United Nations supervision, which has paved the way for transforming the FARC into a political force. We hope that the parties will carry out their remaining tasks in good faith and a timely manner, including

destroying arms caches and taking steps to achieve the former combatants' socioeconomic and political reintegration. We expect the Verification Mission to provide the necessary assistance for that. However, it will be important to keep a close eye on the security situation to ensure that no power vacuums arise. For our part, we affirm our readiness to continue to fully support the intra-Colombian peace process and the people and the Government of Colombia as they work to build a durable peace and development post-conflict.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Colombia.

Ms. Mejía Vélez (Colombia) (spoke in Spanish): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's meeting, and in particular Mr. Jean Arnault, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and his entire team, for their report (S/2017/745).

On behalf of President Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, we would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General and the Security Council for the effectiveness of the work of the United Nations Mission in Colombia, the first special political Mission in our country, which will come to a successful end on 25 September. A long time before we signed the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, they made a bold bet on peace in Colombia. That demonstration of confidence gave our peace process a major impetus that not only resulted in that Final Agreement but also enabled us to move decisively towards implementing the agreements on reintegrating the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) into civil, economic, social and political life and achieving security guarantees. In the light of the provisions of resolution 2366 (2017), the Government of Colombia acknowledges that the Mission is a United Nations mission, in all respects, whose sole mandate is to verify that both the Colombian State and the FARC-EP comply fully with the commitments in items 3.2 and 3.4 of the Agreement.

The report (S/2017/745) presented by the Special Representative acknowledges the progress made by the Government in implementing the Peace Agreement. I would now like to address some of the points that we believe to be of greatest importance.

To ensure coordination among all national entities responsible for implementing the Agreement and for decision-making at the highest level, a post-conflict

cabinet was established, led by the President himself, who then appointed Vice-President Óscar Naranjo as the interlocutor for the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia. Eighty-seven pieces of legislation have been adopted, including five amendments to the political Constitution, so as to provide a solid legal structure to what was agreed upon and to form the basis for the political reform that allowed the FARC-EP to be registered as a political organization.

On 16 August, the so-called territorial areas for training and reincorporation were established, where activities are carried out to facilitate the initial phases of returning the members of the FARC to civilian life and to make a positive contribution to the surrounding communities. The national council for reintegration has held 44 meetings to lay the groundwork for planned projects and decision-making among the parties. Through decisions taken by council for reintegration, three censuses were carried out in order to clearly identify former combatants.

The socioeconomic census covered 10,015 people and will provide the information required to facilitate and structure the long-term process of reintegrating members of the FARC into civilian life. The educational census will allow us to start the process to help many of them to become literate, through the implementation of flexible educational models in the former 26 zones. In all, 4,500 former members of the FARC-EP and 4,000 people in surrounding communities are taking part. The health census will serve as the basis for the development of a short- and medium-term strategy to meet needs in that area.

An institutional resource matrix was also established, which will allow for overall well-being and provide psychosocial support, pensions, academic training, labour force and productivity training, initiatives in the areas of the arts, culture and sports and community endeavours. The process to facilitate financial inclusion and membership in the national pension scheme is being developed. A total of 9,491 savings accounts have been opened for former combatants to enable them to receive financial support, in line with the provisions of the Agreement. Up to 30 August, disbursements equivalent to nearly \$8 million had been made, and 3,840 national pension scheme memberships had been finalized.

The national apprenticeship service has started providing support covering financial education,

community project management, entrepreneurship, solidarity-based economics, integrated solid waste management and information and communication technology. It is very important to note, as has been highlighted here, that a special reintegration programme for minors was established, known as "A Different Way of Life". It is a specialized programme that recognizes them as victims, seeks the restoration of their rights, comprehensive reparations and social and economic reintegration. It provides support not just to the minors themselves, but to their families, host communities and relevant institutions.

The Government of Colombia is aware of the immense challenge of carrying out those tasks and the coordination it will require — that too has been mentioned here. However, we remain willing and we honour our decision to implement the Agreement swiftly and efficiently so as to achieve the goal of stable and lasting peace.

In conclusion, I am grateful for the expressions of support following the recent announcement by my

Government and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional to begin a temporary bilateral ceasefire on 1 October, which will last for 102 days. In that regard, President Santos Calderón has submitted a request to the Secretary-General that the United Nations be part of the oversight of the temporary agreement.

That piece of good news fills us with hope and renews our faith in a Colombia where coexistence prevails. That faith was mentioned here and by Pope Francis yesterday before departing from his five-day visit to Colombia. Peace is a duty that does not concede defeat. It demands everyone's commitment, despite obstacles, differences and the various approaches to achieve peaceful coexistence, and persists in the struggle to foster the "culture of encounter".

The President: I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.



Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8042nd meeting

Monday, 11 September 2017, 6 p.m.

New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Alemu	(Ethiopia)
<i>Members:</i>	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Llorentty Solíz
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Japan	Mr. Bessho
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Nebenzia
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Mr. Skoog
	Ukraine	Mr. Vitrenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ..	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Mrs. Haley
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

Non-proliferation Democratic People's Republic of Korea

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The meeting was called to order at 6.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Republic of Korea to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2017/769, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2375 (2017).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mrs. Haley (United States of America): I thank you, Mr. President, for calling this meeting and allowing us to take this vote.

The images from space of North-East Asia at night show brightness and prosperity surrounding a dark, lonely space that is North Korea. Those images are a good illustration of where the North Korean regime is today. It is alone. It is dark. And it is getting darker.

North Korea's neighbours, its trading partners and the entire international community are united against its dangerous and illegal actions. Today's resolution 2375 (2017) builds on what were already the deepest-cutting

sanctions ever imposed on North Korea. We have been down this road before. The Security Council has expressed its condemnation and has imposed sanctions. But today is different. We are acting in response to a dangerous new development — North Korea's test on 3 September of what it claims was a hydrogen bomb. Today we are saying that the world will never accept a nuclear-armed North Korea. And today the Security Council is saying that if the North Korean regime does not halt its nuclear programme, we will act to stop it ourselves.

Over the years, we have learned many things about the North Korean regime. We have learned that it does not care about being a part of the community of decent, law-abiding nations. It has violated every United Nations resolution against it. We have learned that the North Korean regime does not care about its own people. It has denied them the most basic necessities in order to finance its weapons programme. And we have learned that half-measures against the regime have not worked.

Previous efforts to bring North Korea to the negotiating table have failed. It has repeatedly walked back every commitment it has made. Today the Security Council has acted in a different way. Today we are attempting to take the future of the North Korean nuclear programme out of the hands of its outlaw regime. We are done trying to prod the regime to do the right thing. We are now acting to stop it from having the ability to continue to do the wrong thing. We are doing that by hitting North Korea's ability to fuel and fund its weapons programme. Oil is the lifeblood of North Korea's effort to build and deliver a nuclear weapon. Today's resolution reduces the oil provided to North Korea by almost 30 per cent, by cutting off more than 55 per cent of the supply of its gas, diesel and heavy fuel oil. Furthermore, today's resolution completely bans supplies to North Korea of natural gas and other oil by-products that could be used as substitutes for the reduced petroleum. That will cut deep.

Moreover, a large portion of North Korea's revenues comes from exports — revenues that it uses to fund its nuclear programme. Last month, we adopted resolution 2371 (2017), which bans its coal and iron exports. Today's resolution bans all of its textile exports. That is an almost \$800 million hit to its revenues. With these new, stronger sanctions added to those adopted last month, more than 90 per cent of North Korea's publicly reported exports are now fully banned. Moreover, the

resolution also puts an end to the regime's ability to make money from the 93,000 North Korean citizens it sends to work overseas and whom it taxes heavily. This ban will eventually starve the regime of an additional \$500 million or more in annual revenues. And beyond the \$1.3 billion in annual revenues that we will cut from North Korea, new maritime authorities will help us stop it from obtaining funds by using ships to smuggle coal and other prohibited materials around the world. Furthermore, the resolution prohibits all joint ventures with the regime, resulting in a significant amount of lost revenue. But more important, the regime can no longer obtain the foreign investments, technology and know-how that are critically needed for its commercial industries.

Finally, today's resolution imposes asset freezes on the most crucial entities of the North Korean regime, affecting both the military and the Government itself. In short, these are by far the strongest measures ever imposed on North Korea. They give us a much better chance of halting the regime's ability to fuel and finance its nuclear and missile programmes. But we all know that those steps will work only if all nations implement them completely and aggressively.

Today's resolution would not have happened without the strong relationship that has developed between President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, and we greatly appreciate the fact that both teams are working with us. We have seen additional encouraging signs that other nations in Asia have stepped up to the plate. The Philippines has cut off all trade with Pyongyang. Thailand has drastically cut its economic ties to North Korea. And States much farther away are also doing their part. Mexico recently declared the North Korean Ambassador to its country persona non grata. Along with the strict enforcement of sanctions, those are important steps towards complete international unity. They make it clear that all nations can act to deny North Korea the funds to build its nuclear arsenal.

Today is a solemn day in the United States. It is the sixteenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 innocent people, most of them in this very city. It hurts as much today as it did 16 years ago. We will never forget the victims of 11 September. And we will never forget the lesson that people who have evil intentions must be confronted. That day, the United States saw that mass murder could come from a clear blue sky, on a beautiful Tuesday morning. But

today the threat to the United States and the world is not coming out of the blue. The North Korean regime has demonstrated that it will not act on its own to end its nuclear programme. The civilized world must do what the regime refuses to do. We must stop its march towards a nuclear arsenal with the ability to deliver it anywhere in the world. We must do that by cutting off the fuel and the funding that support it.

We do not take pleasure in further strengthening sanctions today. We are not looking for war. The North Korean regime has not yet passed the point of no return. If it agrees to stop its nuclear programme, it can reclaim its future. If it proves that it can live in peace, the world will live in peace with it. On the other hand, if North Korea continues its dangerous path, we will continue with further pressure. The choice is theirs.

Mr. Bessho (Japan): Japan welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2375 (2017). We would like to express our great appreciation for the leadership of the United States, which has made it possible for us to adopt the resolution today. We also thank other members of the Council for their support.

By swiftly adopting resolution 2375 (2017) today, after North Korea's ballistic missile launch on 29 August that flew over Japan, as well as its sixth nuclear test on 3 September, the Security Council has sent a clear signal to North Korea and the international community as a whole that North Korea's continuation of its nuclear and missile development can never be accepted.

We recently adopted resolution 2371 (2017) unanimously, on 5 August, in response to the two ballistic missile launches of intercontinental range in July. The resolution was intended to be very impactful, with the expected effect of reducing the revenue of the North Korean regime by approximately \$1 billion a year.

The resolution we have adopted today will strengthen sanctions against North Korea to an unprecedented level, further reducing the resources that the North Korean regime uses to continue its illicit programmes. The ban on textile exports from North Korea is expected to reduce its revenue by around \$800 million. The resolution also requires countries not to provide work authorizations for North Korean workers, who have been an important source of revenue for the North Korean regime. In addition, the oil supply that flows into North Korea is expected to be cut by approximately 30 per cent. This is intended to have

a great impact on North Korea's continuation of its weapon of mass destruction programmes.

Today's resolution is an urgent call on the North Korean regime to change its behaviour. The Security Council will not back off in the face of North Korea's persistent provocations, which challenge its repeated resolutions. It is the collective will of the international community that we continue to put maximum pressure on North Korea so that it shows seriousness and takes concrete action towards the goal of denuclearization.

We should bear in mind that the Security Council has repeatedly expressed its determination to take further significant measures in the event of a further launch or nuclear test by North Korea. This is again clearly stated in paragraph 31 of the resolution. A peaceful, diplomatic solution, which we all want, is in the hands of the North Korean regime. If North Korea wants peace and security, it needs to take concrete measures for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, comply fully with the relevant Security Council resolutions and the joint statement of the Six-Party Talks, and thus come back to the dialogue table.

In the meantime, all Members of the United Nations must show their renewed commitment to rigorously and thoroughly implementing the existing Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 2371 (2017) and 2375 (2017). Japan will continue to work very closely with the Security Council member and all other Member States to reach a solution to the problems related to North Korea.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): France welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2375 (2017), which reinforces the sanctions imposed by the United Nations against North Korea. I thank the Permanent Representative of the United States, Nikki Haley, and her team, as well as every member of the Council, for their commitment to that end.

The tragic anniversary of 11 September 2001, which we are commemorating today, leads me once again to express our deepest sympathy to our American friends and to all countries that have been affected by terrorism. This commemoration and the solemnity surrounding it also call on us to rise collectively to the responsibilities of the Council with respect to the crucial question of war and peace and the conditions of peace. That is the question that brings us here today to discuss North Korea, and it is why, on behalf of France, I should like

today to deliver three messages of a political nature in the form of three requirements.

The first requirement is that of clear thinking in the face of the evolution of the threat. Let us not deceive ourselves. Following this year's intercontinental ballistic missile launches, and then the nuclear test of unprecedented scale on 3 September, the threat has changed in dimension and even in nature. From regional, it has become global; from virtual, it has become immediate; and from serious, it has become existential. The threat now compels and brings us together. It demands a strong and united reaction of the Security Council, for which France has called from the beginning and without reservation.

The second key requirement today is that of firmness. In the face of the regime's irresponsible headlong dash and its contempt for its international obligations, it was more than ever necessary to act quickly, in unison and with resolve. It was essential to respond to this attack on the norms of peace and security and the legal system on which they are based. The resolution that we have just adopted constitutes an important and necessary step in that regard in order to maximize the pressure on the North Korean regime.

In a significant and targeted manner, this robust resolution reinforces and expands several important aspects of the the sanctions regime. In particular, I would refer to the very strong reinforcement of the constraints on the sectors of the economy that directly fund the North Korean regime, such as textiles and North Korean workers. I refer also to the important restrictions imposed on oil exports to North Korea. Finally, the resolution strengthens the tools available to us to prevent the circumvention of sanctions, especially in the maritime field. The latest report (S/2017/742, annex) of the United Nations Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1874 (2009) confirms that the North Korean regime is becoming increasingly innovative in avoiding the sanctions imposed on it. Let us know how to make our sanctions correspondingly inventive.

This is not a mere show of resolve. The sanctions are neither a leitmotiv without purpose nor an end in themselves. Our united, firm and unequivocal response today has a dual objective. On the one hand, we must resist the unjustifiable attitude of Pyongyang and avoid any signal of impunity with regard to the flagrant violation of our decisions; and, on the other hand,

we must maximize the pressure on the North Korean regime in order to lead it back to its obligations and to reason.

In that context, the third requirement, logically and chronologically, is that of diplomacy, to which the determination we express together today will, we hope, pave the way. France's conviction is that maximal resolve today, in the form of a strengthening of sanctions, is our best leverage for promoting a political settlement tomorrow. Contrarily, anything that could be perceived by the North Korean regime as an admission of weakness or the expression of divisions among us would encourage it to pursue its provocations and would objectively heighten the danger of a resort to extremes. Simply put, the great resolve that we are expressing together today is our best antidote to the risk of confrontation and our best chance to open a path to the diplomatic process, which we believe must be founded on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

We are therefore not closing the door to dialogue, and we never will. It is the North Korean regime that is showing its obstinacy by rejecting dialogue through its irresponsible and unacceptable attitude. So long as North Korea remains deaf to our entreaties and continues to heighten its threat with provocation upon provocation, we will have no other choice than to step up pressure in response. That is the sole solution to bring North Korea to the negotiating table and to open up the path to the necessary political and diplomatic way out of this matter.

For France, these are the three necessary demands that should guide us: clarity as to the existential nature of the threat, maximum resolve to respond to it, and diplomacy as the way forward — all, we hope, towards a political solution to resolve the North Korean nuclear crisis. The security of us all is at stake. For the sake of the future of the backbone that is the entire non-proliferation regime, France calls upon all the actors concerned to together follow this demanding path.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): Just over a week ago, North Korea sent a brazen message of provocation, a message of belligerence — a sixth nuclear test, carried out once again in clear contempt for the Security Council, the region and the international community. Today, through the unanimous adoption of resolution 2375 (2017), we have sent a message of our own in response. Through this vote we have made clear that we will not stand idly by in the face of such

aggression, that we will not be intimidated or cowed, that we will match North Korean provocations with clear, targeted consequences.

Today we have enacted strategic measures that, together with existing obligations, add up to the most stringent United Nations sanctions regime placed on any nation in the twenty-first century. We have enacted measures today that show our determination to act. This resolution does three big things. First, it will curtail gas, petrol and oil imports. Secondly, it will ban all textile exports, thereby taking hundreds of millions of dollars from revenues that the North Korean regime uses to fund its nuclear and missile programmes. And, thirdly, it will end future work authorizations of North Korean overseas labourers, stopping a sickening industry built on modern slavery and used to divert funds to the regime. Therefore, make no mistake: we are tightening the screw, and we stand ready to tighten it further. Until the regime sees that diplomacy, not duplicity, is the way forward, we must use all of our diplomatic tools to bring pressure to bear on Pyongyang.

Some observers doubted that the Council would be willing or able to react speedily or in unison, or even at all, to this new provocation. With this resolution we have shown that we are united in condemning this illegal and reckless act, and that we are determined that the North Korean regime change course. The unanimous agreement today of the States around this table is a powerful step. We now call on all States to redouble their sanctions implementation, while taking note of the decisions that we have made today under international law.

North Korea is engaged in a dangerous policy of provocation. Our role as a Council, and as an international community, is to constrain them so that they change course. Sanctions are a vital part of that effort. It is the regime that bears full responsibility for the measures that we have enacted today. It is their continued, illegal and aggressive actions that have brought us here. Such actions are in no way a proportionate response to the legitimate defensive military exercises of South Korea and the United States.

There is a way out. Diplomacy can end this crisis. First, North Korea must change its reckless course. There must be an end to the tests, an end to the provocations. Until North Korea changes course, we must maintain the maximum pressure possible. Through this resolution today, we have done just

that. The onus now falls on Pyongyang to do the right thing — to step back from confrontation and to step towards de-escalation.

Mr. Vitrenko (Ukraine): Ukraine welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2375 (2017) in response to the sixth nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We commend the strong leadership of the United States, which made the adoption possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to express Ukraine's solidarity with the people and the Government of the United States as they commemorate the sixteenth anniversary of 9/11. I am proud that Ukraine was able to contribute to the Security Council's response to that horrific terrorist act back in 2001 as a non-permanent member of the Council, including by providing our Permanent Mission's premises for the Council's urgent consultations.

North Korea's advancing nuclear and ballistic missiles programmes remain the most significant proliferation global challenge at the global scale. Moreover, the increasing militarization has already severely impacted, and continues to threaten, the livelihoods of the population of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Besides continuously diverting resources from acute human needs to fuelling its nuclear arsenal, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has succeeded in evading sanctions. We therefore fully support imposing new robust measures against the North Korean regime, along with strengthening the existing conditions and restrictions. Our decision today clearly proves that the Council remains united and decisive in its response to the growing nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula, as well as in its intention to avoid affecting the people of North Korea.

I wish to reiterate the key importance of the full and comprehensive implementation of all of the Council's resolutions related to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, by all States Members of the United Nations, in order to avert the risk of further provocations and curb the rampant nuclear and missile ambitions of Pyongyang.

Ukraine voted for this resolution, trusting that any responsible member of the international community must spare no effort in restoring respect for international law and finding solutions to counter the greatest threats to global peace and security.

Mr. Rosselli (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): Uruguay voted in favour of resolution 2375 (2017) and welcomes its unanimous adoption. In the 21 months that we have been a member of the Security Council, this is the fifth resolution we have adopted to impose sanctions on North Korea. This is also the fifth time that my delegation has stressed that the Security Council's action and the unity of its members are crucial in order to counter the grave threat to international peace and security posed by the repeated violations by North Korea of the Council's resolutions. As well, this is the fifth time that my country maintains that nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches exacerbate instability on the Korean peninsula and tension in the region and constitute ongoing provocations of the international community. And, too, this is the fifth time that Uruguay reiterates the urgent need that the Government of North Korea respect the resolutions of the Security Council and halt its nuclear and ballistic missiles programmes. Uruguay once again urges that country, for the fifth time, to wholly, verifiably and irreversibly abandon its nuclear programme and immediately end all related activities, including launches involving ballistic missile technology, and other provocative acts.

Sanctions are simply a means of bringing the Government of North Korea to the negotiating table. It is necessary to work towards a sustainable, results-focused dialogue as soon as possible. Resolving the North Korean conflict will be made possible only through dialogue and diplomacy and within the framework of an international strategy that includes a firm commitment by all countries to ensure the appropriate and effective implementation of the sanctions put in place by the Security Council.

Lastly, and again for the fifth time, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to continue working towards a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution in order to denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

Mr. Cardi (Italy): Italy welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2375 (2017). We thank the United States for leading the process with an appropriate sense of urgency and for conducting negotiations in a spirit of transparency — that is appreciated given the constraints imposed by the grave situation provoked by North Korea.

The resolution comes at a unique moment of threat to international peace and security with very serious challenges to regional stability. Just one week ago,

the Security Council met (see S/PV.8039) to condemn the sixth nuclear test carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea regime, following a series of increasingly reckless missile launches. We reaffirm our strong condemnation of those irresponsible acts.

All such actions taken together reveal a cycle of unprecedented, deliberate and escalatory provocations by North Korea, directed against the international community as a whole and aimed at undermining the foundations of the global non-proliferation regime, as well as the authority of the Council. We reiterate our deepest concern about the advancement of the North Korean nuclear and missile programme, which constitutes an unacceptable threat of a global nature.

Today we stand united once again by taking action to protect our collective security and ensure that the North Korean regime's threats do not go unanswered. The resolution adopted today is a balanced text that provides for a strong, comprehensive package of restrictive measures, while taking into account humanitarian concerns and the need to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula through a negotiated process. Those measures are a reflection of the gravity of the current situation and they constitute a proportional and appropriate response.

However, the resolution is not only about stronger sanctions. It also signals the political path through which, if it so chooses, North Korea can revert to international legality and a different pattern of relations with the international community, in order to resolve the situation peacefully.

We fully share the call of the resolution on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to immediately cease all nuclear and missile-related activities and to make credible progress on its obligation to denuclearize and open the way to a peaceful solution through meaningful negotiations.

We also fully share the concern for the humanitarian situation in the country and the need to ensure that these new sanctions do not have an adverse impact. We must not forget that the people of North Korea are, first and foremost, victims of the regime's self-isolating ambitions. The international community must therefore continue to provide assistance for those in need.

Finally, as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), we will continue to maintain a sharp focus on the full and

effective implementation of the sanctions regime by the whole membership of the United Nations.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China): On 3 September, while defying the general opposition on the part of the international community, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea conducted yet another nuclear test. The Chinese Government strongly opposes and condemns such an act.

China is consistently committed to denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, ensuring peace and stability on the peninsula and resolving the issue through dialogue and consultation. The Security Council's adoption of resolution 2375 (2017) today reflects those three commitments and the united position of the international community in opposing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's development of its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities and preserving the international non-proliferation regime.

China urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to earnestly heed the expectations and will of the international community to halt the country's nuclear and missile development, effectively abide by and implement the Council's resolutions, stop any further nuclear and missile tests and effectively work towards denuclearization. At the same time, the resolution reiterates the need to maintain peace and stability on the peninsula and in North-East Asia. It also commits to resolving the issue through peaceful, diplomatic and political means and supports the resumption of the Six-Party Talks, as well as the commitment voiced in the statement of 19 September 2005, while also emphasizing the importance of de-escalating tension on the peninsula. All parties should effectively and comprehensively implement the relevant provisions set out in Security Council resolutions. The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula must be resolved peacefully. Comprehensive measures must be taken to balance the legitimate security concerns of all parties.

China has made unrelenting efforts towards denuclearization and maintaining peace and stability on the peninsula. On 4 July, China and Russia issued a joint statement on the issue of the Korean peninsula, based on China's proposal of a dual-track approach of promoting the denuclearization of the peninsula through a suspension-for-suspension approach.

China calls on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to halt its nuclear and missile activities, and on the United States and the Republic of Korea to

suspend their large-scale military exercises, in line with Russia's proposal for a step-by-step approach. China and Russia have formulated a road map for the solution of the Korean peninsula issue. The joint Chinese and Russian initiative is realistic and feasible. It aims to tackle both the symptoms and root causes of the problem, so as to advance the peaceful settlement of the Korean peninsula nuclear issue and maintain the peace and stability of the peninsula. In that vein, we hope to obtain a positive response and backing from relevant parties.

We hope that the United States will incorporate the following four "don'ts" into its relevant policies regarding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea: don't seek regime change; don't incite a collapse of the regime; don't seek an accelerated reunification effort of the peninsula; and don't send its military north of the thirty-eighth parallel.

China is a close neighbour of the Korean peninsula. We have been consistently committed to its denuclearization and are against any war or chaos on the territory. The strengthening of military deployment on the Korean peninsula and the goal of denuclearization and reaching peace and stability run counter to each other.

The deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system severely undermines the reaching of a strategic balance. It also undermines the strategic security interests of the countries in the region, of which China is part. China strongly urges the relevant parties to halt its deployment and remove all related equipment. At present, the situation on the peninsula is sensitive, complex and grave. The relevant parties should remain calm and avoid a rhetoric or action that could aggravate the tensions. The priority at present is to comprehensively and strictly implement the relevant Security Council resolutions, and the parties concerned should resume talks and negotiations sooner rather than later, endeavour to advance the denuclearization process and maintain peace and stability on the peninsula. The Council should shoulder its historical responsibility in this regard.

China will continue to advance dialogue and consultations, work together with all relevant parties and make a positive and constructive effort to ensure that an appropriate settlement is reached at an early date so as to resolve the current issue on the peninsula, attain denuclearization and ensure long-term peace and stability on the peninsula.

Mr. Skoog (Sweden): The persistent disregard for global norms and the consistent defying of Security Council resolutions by North Korea puts millions of people at risk. Its actions represent a threat not only to the region but to all of us. This is indeed a clear threat to international peace and security. For this reason, Sweden welcomes the adoption today of resolution 2375 (2017). In the face of North Korea's destabilizing actions, it is important that the Council once again stand united and determined to address the most dangerous crisis we are facing today.

Sweden reiterates its condemnation of North Korea's recent nuclear test. We once again urge North Korea to heed the Council's decisions and the call of the entire international community that it cease provocations, fulfil its international obligations, engage in meaningful dialogue and abandon its nuclear weapons and missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

The strengthened sanctions adopted today aim to add further pressure on the North Korean regime and to contribute to a change in behaviour. To achieve that end, the sanctions must be implemented in full. More efforts are needed in this regard. Recommendations by the Panel of Experts to the sanctions Committee must be implemented. All States Members of the United Nations have a responsibility to do their utmost to ensure that the sanctions regime works.

Sanctions alone, though, will not resolve the situation on the Korean peninsula, nor is there a feasible military option to end the crisis. The solution must be a peaceful, diplomatic and political one. We welcome the call in the resolution for further work to reduce tensions so as to advance the prospects for a comprehensive settlement. Therefore, in parallel with the tightened sanctions adopted today, we must urgently undertake intensified, creative diplomatic efforts to decrease tensions, increase confidence and prevent escalation, paving the way for dialogue on a peaceful and comprehensive solution.

It is clear that in order to achieve the longer-term objective, there is a pressing need for regional security arrangements. The United Nations should provide additional support, especially with regard to confidence-building activities in the region, and we should explore how the good offices of the Secretary-General can contribute. The continued provocations by North Korea, as well as the current

confrontational rhetoric, are dangerous and risk leading to unintended consequences. In the immediate term, while tensions are running high, lines for direct inter-Korean communication are critical so as to avoid misunderstanding and miscalculations. As a member of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, we call on North Korea to resume contact at the border station in Panmunjom.

While the North Korean regime invests in expensive weapons programmes, it shows utter disregard for the well-being of its own people, who continue to suffer from serious human rights violations and the grave humanitarian situation. It is important to underline that none of the measures adopted today or in previous resolutions should prevent or make more difficult the ongoing efforts of the United Nations and its partners to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance. It is also important to note that as the harsh North Korean winter approaches, more support and humanitarian efforts are likely to be needed.

Mr. Nebenzia (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Russia does not accept the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's claim to become a nuclear State and has supported all Security Council resolutions demanding an end to the nuclear and missile programmes of Pyongyang, with a view to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. We have therefore supported and are supporting the sanctions contained in the resolutions aimed at compelling the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to meet the demands of the Security Council.

This applies fully also to the demands contained in resolution 2371 (2017), even though when it was adopted we underscored that the measures involving financial and economic pressure on the leadership of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had basically been exhausted and that any further restrictions would be tantamount to attempts to suffocate its economy, including the placing of a total embargo on the country and provoking a deep humanitarian crisis. In other words, what we are talking about here is not just cutting off the channels that allow for banned nuclear and missile activities, but, rather, inflicting unacceptable damage on innocent civilians.

At the same time, we proposed a reasonable and realistic alternative to the ultimatum logic of the sanctions, which has proved unworkable time and again. The alternative consisted of the following: beginning

implementation of not just the sanctions-related parts of the aforementioned resolutions of the Security Council, but also those of the provisions calling for a peaceful political and diplomatic settlement of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula through dialogue and negotiation. Such provisions are contained in all of the relevant Security Council resolutions. Ignoring them would represent a direct violation of the consensus agreements reached in the Council.

Furthermore, the authors' unwillingness to include in the resolution the idea of using the good offices and mediation potential of the Secretary-General, as well as the refusal to reaffirm the statement made by the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Tillerson, on the "Four Nos" — that there are no plans to start a war, effect regime change, force the reunification of the two Koreas or violate the 38th parallel — all give rise to very serious questions in our minds to which we have not yet received answers.

Russia, as was underscored by President Putin on 5 December in China, firmly denounces the recent provocative step taken by Pyongyang, that is, the test carried out on 3 September. We are convinced, however, that dissipating the threat looming from the Korean Peninsula could be done not through additional sanctions but exclusively through political means. That is exactly the approach that was proposed by Russia and China in the joint statement dated 4 July, which set out a joint roadmap on a step-by-step move towards a settlement, starting with de-escalation, a bilateral lowering of tensions and then the implementation of confidence-building measures and the creation of conditions for the resumption of negotiations. We believe that it would be a serious mistake to underestimate this Russia-China initiative. It remains on the table at the Security Council, and we will insist on its consideration.

We supported resolution 2375 (2017) today because despite our belief that there is no future in endless pressure and refusals to talk, it would be wrong not to react strongly to nuclear tests.

At the same time, we underscored immediately that the reaction of the Security Council needed to be thought through and had to take into account the humanitarian aspects of the situation in North Korea, the legitimate interests of its civilians and the specific aspects of the bilateral relationships between Pyongyang and its

foreign partners that have nothing to do with nuclear or missile tests but would meet the needs of civilians.

In the course of working on the draft resolution, many of our colleagues stated that it was a prologue to efforts to achieve a political settlement. We would like to see proof of that in the very near future. We call upon all Council members and United Nations Member States to undertake specific efforts — not in word but in deed — to find a political and diplomatic settlement of the issue of the Korean Peninsula.

Mr. Seck (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): The delegation of Senegal welcomes the unanimous adoption by the 15 members of the Security Council of resolution 2375 (2017) on non-proliferation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It also commends the constructive spirit that has prevailed in the negotiations on and the adoption of this resolution, whose penholder is the United States delegation.

As the Security Council has the primary responsibility in maintaining international peace and security and in accordance with the many resolutions that it has adopted on this issue, the Council had to take action by adopting supplementary measures that considerably bolster those that are already in force. Strong reactions are logical as the regime of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continues to pursue an illegal military regime, in flagrant violation of Security Council resolutions and of non-proliferation resolutions. Its nuclear programme is furthermore a direct threat to aviation security and the safety of millions of people who live, work and travel throughout the region, as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea gave no warning or notice concerning the launches and tests of a hydrogen bomb on 3 September, which caused an earthquake that was felt in neighbouring countries.

The Senegalese delegation wishes to underscore that this set of targeted measures, taken quite rightly in response to the challenge posed by the ballistic missile programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, must be pursued in the framework of global and political strategies to encourage the parties to engage in dialogue with a view to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, with the support of the international community. I therefore reiterate once again my country's support for a peaceful settlement of this issue.

I call on the Council to remain unified with regard to the resumption of the six-party talks in order to achieve a verifiable denuclearization of the Korean

peninsula that will ensure the peaceful coexistence of countries and peoples of the region. Fortunately, the strong point of today's resolution is that paragraphs 28, 29 and 30 of resolution 2370 (2017) pave the way for a commendable political solution. We must now rise to the challenge of implementing this resolution. As the Permanent Representative of Italy stated during consultations, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), there remains much to be desired in its implementation.

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): Egypt voted in favour of resolution 2375 (2017), based on its unwavering principled commitment to the credibility of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) regime and the credibility and role of the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security. Egypt wishes to set an example on how to seriously deal with any threat to the NPT regime without double standards.

Egypt, once again, calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to put an end to its continued violations of Security Council resolutions. We call upon it to return to the NPT as a non-nuclear State. We call upon it to heed the repeated calls to return to dialogue and negotiations on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula with a view to sustainable peace between the two Koreas. Egypt urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to immediately cease any action that would undermine regional security in north-east Asia or international peace and security. We do this out of our understanding of the nature of North Korea's repeated violations of Security Council resolutions as they threaten international and regional peace and security. They are a serious threat to regional security in North-East Asia.

Egypt reaffirms its condemnation in the strongest possible terms of all violations by North Korea. We support a continued role for the Security Council in assuming its responsibility. Egypt again calls on all stakeholders to seek a peaceful settlement of the situation in the Korean peninsula, in accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolutions, including a revitalization of the Six-Party Talks. This would break the current impasse which fuels tension and escalates the conflict. Egypt reaffirms the need to bear in mind the humanitarian considerations and needs, as we implement the stringent measures adopted today.

In conclusion, Egypt welcomes all constructive ideas and initiatives aimed at resolving this crisis, whose negative repercussions are far reaching and extend beyond the region of North-East Asia, through negotiations. Egypt supports a key role for the United Nations in these efforts in promoting diplomacy and a political path and calls for unity among the international community and the Security Council as we address this crisis with the wisdom it requires.

Mr. Umarov (Kazakhstan): Kazakhstan welcomes the unanimous resolve of Council members in urging North Korea to stop its nuclear programme by adopting resolution 2375 (2017), which entails a tougher and broader sanctions regime.

We deplore the fact that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continues to tirelessly violate Security Council resolutions which inevitably leads to greater consequences for the country and its leadership. Despite the urgent appeals and rejection by the world community of its provocative actions, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea consistently continues to develop its nuclear missile potential, which poses a threat to peace and destabilizes the situation in the East Asian region and globally. In that regard, we are talking not about a virtual threat, but rather a real threat to the people of the neighbouring countries and beyond.

After a series of launches of improved ballistic missiles, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea once again shocked the planet with its horrible nuclear test. The irresponsible policy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea negatively affects the global process of nuclear non-proliferation and undermines collective efforts to ensure a nuclear-weapon-free future of the planet. As a country seriously affected by nuclear tests, Kazakhstan is strongly opposed to such heinous violations. We are strongly convinced that, in the twenty-first century, there is no place for nuclear tests.

Proceeding from its principled position, Kazakhstan supports the new resolution in the hope that it will send a clear and strong message to Pyongyang that the world does not accept the nuclear policy of North Korea. We hope Pyongyang will hear the call and act accordingly. The resolution envisages tough sanctions as the means to persuade Pyongyang to change its course in favour of a nuclear-weapon-free future. At the same time, it also leaves room for a resumption of dialogue — if North Korea really wants it.

Once again, we call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to heed the message of humankind and seek the path of prudence and dialogue.

Mr. Llorentty Solíz (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Once again, Bolivia expresses its strongest condemnation of the nuclear and ballistic-missile tests carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We once again call on that country to abandon its nuclear and ballistic-missile programme in a comprehensive, verifiable and irreversible manner and to comply with the provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions. As part of the world's first declared nuclear-weapon-free zone — in line with the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, better known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco — Bolivia voted in favour of resolution 2375 (2017). In doing so, we were motivated by our calling as a pacifist State and by our rejection of the development and manufacture of nuclear weapons as constituting a grave violation of the relevant international treaties on the subject, of human rights and of the right to life itself.

We believe that sanctions must not be an end in and of themselves. They must be used to draw the parties to the negotiating table, while always taking into account, in this case, the humanitarian situation of the population of North Korea. Sanctions alone will not resolve the problem. Were there to be a lack of political and diplomatic solutions, we would be facing a collective failure on the part of the Security Council.

In that regard, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 27 of resolution 2371 (2017), Bolivia proposes that the Security Council begin working as soon as possible to bring the parties back to the negotiation table and resume the Six-Party Talks. We urge avoiding any provocative or unilateral acts or any other act beyond the framework of international law or the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. We reiterate once again our support for the Chinese dual suspension initiative, which seeks to enable a simultaneous freeze on actions on the Korean peninsula, as well as for the Russian-Chinese initiative and road map, which currently is the only concrete proposal to resolve the situation.

Lastly, Bolivia urgently calls on all the parties concerned to rule out any type of military solution or threat of the use of force and to return to negotiations to reach a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution.

that will result in the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Ethiopia.

We welcome the unanimous adoption of resolution 2375 (2017), which we believe is an appropriate response by the Security Council following the series of provocative actions by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that represent a dangerous escalation of the situation on the Korean peninsula. The most recent action by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has made the situation even more dangerous. It is absolutely vital that we continue to maintain Council unity with regard to this very serious matter, which easily has the potential to get out of hand with all of the consequences that that possibility implies. The resolution just adopted is very mindful of that in underscoring its concern that developments on the Korean peninsula could have dangerous, large-scale and regional security implications. We are pleased that it is this awareness that explains the unity within the Council we continue to see. That was amply demonstrated in the result of the negotiations, of which this resolution is an affirmation.

We believe that there is no military solution to the crisis on the Korean peninsula, and we hope that this resolution and the unity among Council members will facilitate the search for a comprehensive diplomatic solution, which is sufficiently stressed in the resolution. All efforts should be made to ensure that that happen sooner rather than later, as the alternative to a peaceful solution of the crisis is — to put it mildly — hardly a viable option.

Let me conclude my brief comments by expressing appreciation for the flexibility demonstrated by all those who played an active part in the finalization of this resolution and for the wisdom that is so manifest in the final product.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Cho Tae-yul (Republic of Korea): First of all, I would like to thank you, Sir, for convening today's meeting to follow up on our discussion (see S/PV.8039) last week concerning North Korea's sixth nuclear test, on 3 September. I very much appreciate the opportunity to participate in this important discussion.

The Republic of Korea welcomes and fully supports the adoption of resolution 2375 (2017), which introduces new robust sanctions measures against North Korea in response to its most powerful nuclear test to date, conducted in defiance of the repeated warnings of the international community. We appreciate the leadership of the United States, which was crucial in bringing about this resolution. We know how difficult it is to secure such a significant negotiated outcome within the time frame of one week. Our appreciation also goes to the other members of the Security Council, especially China and Russia, for their cooperation, without which the adoption of today's resolution would not have been possible.

The unanimous adoption of this resolution in such a swift manner reflects not only the sense of urgency on the part of the Security Council in addressing the North Korea nuclear problem, but also the true gravity of the situation on the Korean peninsula caused by that unjustifiable act in flagrant violation of international norms and obligations. The resolution includes the strongest measures ever against North Korea. Not only will the oil supply to North Korea be substantially reduced, but North Korea will also lose two of its largest income sources, namely, textile exports and overseas labourers. We believe that these measures, if fully implemented, will significantly undercut North Korea's capability to pursue further nuclear-weapon development. The resolution also sends a clear message to Pyongyang that enough is enough. Continuing on the wrong path will only deepen its isolation, seriously endanger its political stability and hinder its economic development. That is surely not what North Korea desires, but is what it will certainly face if it does not change its course immediately.

By introducing the most biting and robust measures in this new resolution, the international community has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to remain united in stopping North Korea's further pursuit of nuclear weapons. Our goal is not to bring North Korea to its knees, but to achieve a peaceful solution to the North Korean nuclear issue. Under the current circumstances, whereby North Korea categorically rejects any kind of dialogue with any country in the world, there are simply no viable options, other than scaling up sanctions, to make Pyongyang return to the negotiating table for denuclearization. Strong economic sanctions are undoubtedly the only diplomatic means available to that end under the present circumstances.

So as to make North Korea wake from its delusion of becoming a nuclear-weapon state, I call on all the members of the international community to fully and thoroughly implement the measures in all the relevant

Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2375 (2017), adopted today. Pyongyang will then feel the real pain of sanctions this time around.

The meeting rose at 7.20 p.m.



Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8043rd meeting

Tuesday, 12 September 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia)

Members:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Llorentty Soliz
China	Mr. Wu Haitao
Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
France	Mrs. Gueguen
Italy	Mr. Cardi
Japan	Mr. Kawamura
Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
Russian Federation	Mr. Ilichev
Senegal	Mr. Seck
Sweden	Mr. Skoog
Ukraine	Mr. Vitrenko
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ..	Mr. Allen
United States of America	Ms. Sison
Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez

Agenda

Security Council mission

Briefing by Security Council mission to Ethiopia (6 to 8 September 2017)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Security Council mission

Briefing by Security Council mission to Ethiopia (6 to 8 September 2017)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by the lead of the Security Council mission to Ethiopia, namely, Ethiopia.

I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Ethiopia.

It gives me great pleasure to brief the Security Council on the successful conduct of its mission to the African Union (AU), which took place from 5 to 9 September in Addis Ababa. Allow me to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to Under-Secretary-General Haile Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union, and the Secretariat for their full support and assistance during the preparation and holding of the Council's visit to Addis Ababa.

As stated in the terms of reference of the mission, the purpose of the Council's visit to Addis Ababa was to strengthen partnership and enhance cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in the areas of peace and security. It was undertaken within the framework of cooperation between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

During the delegation's stay in Addis Ababa, members of the Security Council held discussions with the AU Peace and Security Council for the eleventh joint annual consultative meeting, which took place on 8 September. The consultative meeting was preceded by an informal meeting between the two Councils, which took place on 7 September. Both meetings were co-chaired by the Chairperson of the African Union Peace and Security Council and Permanent Representative of Botswana to the African Union, and myself.

Both Councils had lead members to introduce each topic or respond to introductions made by a designated member of the other Council. Both the informal meeting and the eleventh joint consultative meeting provided an opportunity for the two Councils to exchange views on matters related to peace and security in Africa. The meetings were conducted in a frank manner, while the discussion was also substantive and very enriching. I believe that I reflect the sentiments of Council members who took part in the mission when I say that we found the meetings to be very useful and that they enabled us to better understand the positions of the African Union on some of the issues that are of great importance to the work of the Security Council.

During the informal meeting, the two Councils held discussions on three thematic issues: partnership between the United Nations and the AU, funding for African peace and security activities, and post-conflict peacebuilding. The informal meeting was found to be very meaningful to both sides, as it provided them with an opportunity to hear the views of the other side on some of the issues on which there are diverging views, such as on the issue of the funding of AU peace-support operations. Here, one noted the deep disappointment of the African side — justified or not — with respect to what, in its view, has been a huge deficit in burden-sharing, the effect of which has been to give short shrift to the sacrifices made by the African side. That was also stressed in a notably passionate manner by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security.

During the eleventh joint consultative meeting, the two Councils exchanged views covering three country-specific and regional issues: the situations in Somalia, South Sudan and the Lake Chad basin. The discussion demonstrated that there are many points of convergence between the two Councils, especially on most aspects of the situation in South Sudan and some of the issues concerning Somalia and the Lake Chad basin.

On South Sudan, both Councils expressed their concern on the continued violence and suffering of the South Sudanese people; urged the parties to the conflict to respect the ceasefire and implement the 2015 Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan; commended the leading role played by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in helping to stabilize the country; expressed support, including for the latest IGAD initiative to revitalize the 2015 peace Agreement; underlined that there is no military solution to the

problems in South Sudan; and urged the parties to commit to peaceful dialogue, while also calling for the urgent deployment of the Regional Protection Force.

On the Lake Chad basin, the two Councils stressed the need to address the underlying cause of the conflict in the subregion, including challenges resulting from climate change, underdevelopment and unemployment, among others; recognized the regional dimension of the security threats and their cross-cutting nature, and called for an integrated approach; commended the crucial role being played by the Multinational Joint Task Force and the resulting progress achieved thus far in fighting Boko Haram.

On Somalia, both Councils recognized the key role played by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in degrading the capabilities of Al-Shabaab; underlined the importance of supporting the capacities of the Somali National Army so that it can take over from AMISOM; and called for concerted efforts among the United Nations, the AU and subregional countries to help address the fragile situation and bring last solutions to Somalia.

The meeting that members of the Security Council held with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, His Excellency

Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn, and senior officials of the African Union Commission was also extremely useful. The Prime Minister briefed Council members on the latest developments in the peace and security issues in the Horn of Africa, and an exchange of views was held on situations including Somalia and South Sudan.

Finally, I should like to raise a point about the outcome of the joint consultative meeting. Last year, it took the two Councils one year to agree and adopt a joint communiqué. We had originally hoped that we would be able to avoid such an unnecessary delay this year. Although negotiations were undertaken among the experts of the two Councils, there are some pending issues in the draft joint communiqué that are subject to further negotiation, and it is my hope that it will be finalized as soon as possible.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

On behalf of the Council, I should like to express appreciation to all of the members of the Security Council and the Secretariat who participated in the mission for the manner in which they discharged their important responsibilities.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.



Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8044th meeting

Tuesday, 12 September 2017, 10.15 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia)

Members:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Llorentty Soliz
China	Mr. Wu Haitao
Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
France	Mrs. Gueguen
Italy	Mr. Cardì
Japan	Mr. Kawamura
Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
Russian Federation	Mr. Nebenzia
Senegal	Mr. Seck
Sweden	Mr. Skoog
Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ..	Mr. Allen
United States of America	Ms. Sison
Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez

Agenda

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

African Union

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including on the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union (S/2017/744)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

African Union

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including on the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union (S/2017/744)

The President: In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefer to participate in this meeting: Mr. Haile Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/744, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union.

I now give the floor to Mr. Menkerios.

Mr. Menkerios: I would like to express my appreciation to the President of the Security Council for convening this important meeting on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, including the African Union (AU), and for giving me this opportunity to introduce the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/744) on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including on the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union. The Council has the report before it, and last week held briefings and discussions on the topic in Addis Ababa. I will therefore just update the Council on what has happened since the report was issued.

Let me start by congratulating the United Nations Security Council and AU Peace and Security Council

on the cordial and constructive nature of the discussions held by the two Councils in Addis Ababa, which testifies to the strong commitment of both to address peace and security challenges in Africa in close cooperation and partnership. It also illustrates the recognition that the current threats to peace and security in Africa are so complex and interconnected, and their impact so profound, that neither organization can resolve them without the other. I would like to commend the two Councils for sending the unequivocal message that a unity of purpose between the two organizations, based on mutual respect and solidarity and on recognition of their respective comparative advantages, is their strength, and should be further institutionalized going forward.

As Council members were briefed on last week, the strategic partnership between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission has been growing steadily. It is now characterized by continued engagement between peers at various levels. United Nations Special Representatives and Envoys are working with and complementing the efforts of their AU counterparts in a number of critical situations, including in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Gambia, Mali, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan.

As I mentioned last week, United Nations and AU special representatives now frequently deliver joint briefings to the AU Peace and Security Council, including, most recently, on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Somalia. During the period under review, United Nations representatives have also participated and made statements in more than 40 AU Peace and Security Council meetings, most of them through the United Nations Office to the African Union. Similarly, AU representatives have briefed the Security Council, although more of that is needed. At the working level, daily engagements, including horizon-scanning, joint analysis and assessments, and joint operations planning continue consistent with the provisions of Security Council resolution 2320 (2016), the AU Peace and Security Council communiqué of 29 September 2016 and the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security.

I would like to focus on five points arising from Council members' successful deliberations last week.

First, both Councils reiterated the principle of the Charter of the United Nations that the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and also recognized the important role of regional arrangements in dealing with challenges related to conflict, in line with Chapter VIII of the Charter. In that regard, the Councils noted the important and critical role of the AU and its regional economic communities and regional mechanisms, whose proximity to the countries and regions in conflict, together with their in-depth knowledge of the political, social and economic root causes and dynamics of the conflicts, provides a unique vantage point from which to address them.

Secondly, we welcome the consensus that partnership between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council can be deepened through more frequent interaction between the two. That could include joint field missions to conflict situations that are on both Councils' agendas. A number of suggestions were made about how such joint missions could be organized. It was also suggested that the Councils could interact more frequently, particularly in advance of mandate decisions. Such interactions would facilitate the adoption of common approaches to addressing conflict situations and ensure that both Councils' instructions on implementation to the Secretariat and the AU Commission are more closely aligned.

Thirdly, we welcome the Security Council's recognition that its deliberations and decisions on peace and security issues in Africa can be enriched by briefings from AU special representatives and envoys alongside those of their United Nations counterparts. As many Council members said during the deliberations, there is a wealth of knowledge, experience and understanding that special representatives of the African Union and the regional economic communities could put at the Security Council's disposal. The United Nations Secretariat stands ready to work with the AU Commission and the regional economic communities to give effect to the Security Council's wishes in that area.

Fourthly, many representatives underlined the importance of closer collaboration between the two organizations on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Although the United Nations and the AU have improved their early-warning mechanisms, early action is still a challenge, and we often tend to be reactive rather than proactive. The United Nations and the AU

should strengthen their collaboration with the regional economic communities, as well as with neighbours of countries where there are conflict areas. We should also engage more with non-State actors, such as faith-based groups, since they have historical contacts with the affected communities and enjoy a higher level of trust with them.

On peacebuilding, the two Councils emphasized the importance of paying more attention to addressing the root causes of conflict and preventing relapses into it. That will require sustained engagement on the part of the United Nations, the AU, bilateral partners and non-governmental organizations, including by building institutional capacity in fragile States, increasing economic opportunities and enhancing resilience. The AU Peace and Security Council also called for greater collaboration with the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office, with which they agreed in October last year to meet annually to assess progress and plan joint work.

Fifthly, we are encouraged by the continued commitment of the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council to considering financial burden-sharing for AU peace support operations authorized by the Security Council in line with resolution 2320 (2016). African countries continue to argue that they already carry the heavy burden of sending their young men and women into dangerous conflict situations where the United Nations cannot deploy, in addition to promising to provide 25 per cent of the total cost of such operations. The AU has also taken further steps to strengthen and fully comply with its financial and human rights accountability and compliance mechanisms. The Secretary-General has commended the strong political will that the leaders of the African Union have shown, including through their payment to the AU Peace Fund to date of 18 per cent of their 2017 target of \$65 million.

As I mentioned last week, it is also essential to ensure that the financing of AU peace support operations authorized by the Security Council is framed within the context of a common political strategy, agreed to by both Councils and informed by joint analysis and assessments of conflict situations. Between them, the Secretariat and the Commission have launched such a process so as to ensure that the financing of AU-led peace support operations becomes a tool for achieving a common political and operational strategy.

Finally, we continue to hear passionate appeals from the AU Peace and Security Council and Commission that the related issue of predictable, flexible and adequate funding for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) must be urgently addressed. The United Nations support provided through the United Nations Support Office in Somalia is either inadequate or insufficiently flexible for the nature of AMISOM operations, while non-United Nations support is uncertain beyond 2018. Members of the AU Peace and Security Council have described the situation as untenable, and one that could result in AMISOM's precipitous withdrawal before the Somali national forces are ready to take over their security responsibilities. It would be tragic, not least for the long-suffering Somali people, if the gains and sacrifices of the past decade were reversed because the international community was unable to provide adequate and predictable funding for AMISOM. As requested by the Security Council, the Secretary-General will present a report on AMISOM's further funding in November, and the AU Peace and Security Council has asked the Security Council to take appropriate decisions to address this urgent and critical issue.

In conclusion, I would like to express appreciation for the Security Council's continued high-level political support to the Framework Agreement, signed by the Secretary-General and the AU Chairperson, which ensures our ability to fully operationalize the strategic partnership that the Security Council has called for.

The President: I thank Mr. Menkerios for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements.

Mr. Seck (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I thank you, Sir, for having organized this briefing, and take this opportunity to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union Haile Menkerios very much for his enlightening briefing, which strongly highlights the stakes related to strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) in the area of peace and security.

As noted in the report of Secretary-General (S/2017/744) before us, the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union has taken several important steps forward over the past recent years. The positive development in that cooperation emanates from a shared awareness of the interdependence and

complementarity of the two organizations in the area of peace and security. It is worth recalling the importance of strengthening that cooperation and developing a more effective partnership to confront the common challenges of collective security in Africa. In that connection, we welcomed the signing on 19 April of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security by the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. We are hopeful that the monitoring mechanism put in place by the two secretariats to that end will facilitate the implementation of that important instrument to further strengthen cooperation between the two organizations and reach its full potential.

The Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council have a central role to play in that cooperation, as you have just illustrated, Sir, in summarizing the proceedings of the eleventh annual joint consultative meeting of members of the Security Council and African Union Peace and Security Council, chaired by you, in Addis Ababa on 7 and 8 September. I will limit myself to underlining that, as pertains to that cooperation, African peacekeeping operations are illustrative of the fact that they constitute local responses to global problems. From that perspective, the strengthening of the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations should enable the African Union to equip itself with additional capacities, tools and means for effective and concerted action to the benefit of all. That requires strengthening the partnership not only at the strategic and operational levels, but also on the level of joint analysis and planning until deployment so as to ensure a more effective and adapted response to the evolving peace and security challenges that the African continent is facing. The lessons learned, particularly in the transition from African Union-led peace operations to United Nations-led peacekeeping operations, illustrate the numerous logistical, operational and capacity difficulties facing both organizations in the effective management of peace and security issues.

In that respect, we believe that strengthening the capacity of the African Union and its regional economic communities in the area of peace and security is important. In the same vein, it is necessary to strengthen the means and capacities of regional Offices, such as United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel and United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, as well as the work of African Union special envoys and

special representatives to optimize their contributions to that end.

My delegation welcomes the efforts made thus far in seeking predictable, sustainable and flexible funding mechanisms for African Union-led peace operations authorized by the Security Council, in particular the adoption of resolution 2320 (2016) in November 2016, during the Senegalese presidency, which, in our opinion, is an important step in that it opened up real prospects for further reflection on how best to ensure sustainable and predictable financing for African Union-led peace operations. We are counting on the Ethiopian presidency to take the lead in realizing that vision.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for the quality of their reports, submitted in accordance with resolution 2320 (2016), the concrete proposals of which bring us closer together towards realizing our common goal and making the strategic partnership more predictable. The Senegalese delegation hopes that the Council will demonstrate the necessary political will so as to ensure an appropriate follow-up through working collectively in a constructive spirit on the adoption of a substantive draft resolution establishing the principle that peace support operations mandated or authorized by the African Union with the consent of the Council must be financed through assessed contributions to the United Nations budget, with decisions on the funding of specific missions to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

My delegation looks forward with great interest to the review of the implementation of resolution 2320 (2016).

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I warmly thank Mr. Menkerios for the his outstanding briefing, which he delivered to the Security Council. I also thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive report (S/2017/744) on cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union (AU).

The partnership described in the report has evolved with regard to cooperation on various fronts. The partnership between the AU and United Nations has evolved in connection with peace and security. The Security Council adopted resolution 2320 (2016) in November 2016. The resolution emphasized the importance of strengthening the existing cooperation between the two organizations so as to ensure that the partnership become strategic and institutional in nature, thereby ensuring the tools necessary to build

and develop the capacities of both organizations to confront the complex and complicated challenges facing the African continent. That partnership will be strengthened under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and will ensure that both parties can benefit from it.

I would like to emphasize the importance for the Security Council to consider all the alternatives included in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/744), submitted in accordance with resolution 2320 (2016), namely, with regard to support for peace operations on the African continent according to the mandate issued by the Security Council, as well as ensuring the principle of access to the peacekeeping budget of the United Nations according to established criteria. Adhering to those criteria will ensure sustained and durable funding of peacekeeping operations on the African continent.

Cooperation between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Peace and Security Council is a key factor involving the two organizations, and against that backdrop, I wish to commend the efforts of the Secretary-General as well as those of the Chairperson of the African Union Peace and Security Council to bolster and promote cooperation between the two parties with regard to the institutional and practical aspects of their endeavours. Within that framework, on 19 April, the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security was signed and established the areas of priority for cooperation between the two parties. We hope that the document will be implemented and that once it is, it will bolster AU capacities, fully activating all the components of the African peace and security architecture in its entirety, including the African Standby Force.

I also wish to stress the importance of implementing the principle of sustaining peace and of integrating it into the various facets of AU work. We must attach greater importance to conflict prevention, early warning systems, the peaceful resolution of conflicts, post-conflict peacebuilding and the promotion of cooperation between the two organizations in those spheres so as to ultimately reach a common understanding of the challenges facing the African continent in the field of peace and security. We must also be able to evaluate the means that will allow those challenges to be tackled.

I would be remiss if I did not refer to the efforts of the United Nations Office to the African Union to strengthen the partnership between the two organizations. We hope that the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General soon for the Council's consideration, in accordance with resolution 2320 (2016), will assess the needs of the Office in the light of the strengthening partnership between the two organizations. We hope that the Council will attempt to enhance the capacities of the Office to ensure that it can discharge its mandate, acting as a bridge between the two organizations.

To conclude, I wish to emphasize that Egypt, as a member of the United Nations Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council, is determined to effectively contribute to the efforts to strengthen the partnership between the two organizations. We are convinced that that is the best way to address the modern-day challenges facing Africa and the world as a whole, which are complex and multidimensional in nature.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): I thank you, Sir, for convening this meeting and Special Representative of the Secretary-General Menkerios for his briefing.

It is not often enough that we gather as the Security Council to talk about the bright side of what we do — finding new ways for nations to work together to foster peace and security. Today, I am glad to say, is one of those occasions.

The African Union (AU) is a critical partner of the United Nations. From Somalia to Mali to South Sudan, the AU has joined the United Nations in promoting our shared values of peace and security across the African continent. That partnership was further demonstrated by last week's joint consultations. As we said the last time we considered this relationship, the question is not whether the AU and the United Nations will continue to work together closely. Rather, the question is how we will deepen and strengthen our partnership.

That partnership has come a long way over the past decade, thanks in large part to the work of both the United Nations Office to the African Union and the AU Peace and Security Council. When those two organizations work together, mission planning is better, mandates are clearer and political support is greater. All of that means that outcomes are better. However, most importantly, the people on the ground whose safety and

lives depend on that work are better served, which is what we are working for.

One bright spot in that relationship is the AU plan to finalize its human rights and conduct and discipline frameworks. Those are areas where progress is critical if we are to deepen cooperation. It is absolutely essential that the AU continue to work to prevent abuses and promote respect for human rights. Nothing does more to destroy trust — not to mention damage the reputation of both the AU and the United Nations — than abuses and misconduct by troops and police. That means there must be rigorous procedures in place for the screening and selection of personnel on the front end. There must be training, monitoring and reporting while peacekeepers are in the field, and there must be independent investigations and accountability when violations do occur. We welcome the AU determination to promote respect for human rights, and we look forward to progress on the implementation of those frameworks.

We are also encouraged by the closer working relationship that has been established between the United Nations Secretariat and the AU Commission staff. There has also been progress in improving internal management and oversight of AU-led peace support operations. These are all steps in the right direction. We recognize that fully implementing those benchmarks for transparency, performance and accountability will take time, and we stand ready to continue to work together to see that those frameworks are implemented and show demonstrable progress.

But before we can consider additional financial support through the United Nations, we must see concrete evidence of such progress. The United States will not consider the use of United Nations-assessed contributions for any future AU operations until the benchmarks for financial transparency, conduct and discipline and human rights are demonstrably implemented across AU field operations. To do otherwise would be to risk jeopardizing the legitimacy of United Nations peacekeeping. We will continue to support AU efforts to increase financial self-reliance, including reinvigorating the African Union Peace Fund. We especially look forward to working with AU member States to identify non-trade mechanisms for greater self-financing that are transparent and compliant with Member States' international obligations and commitments.

Finally, we look forward to continuing leadership from the African Union to mobilize member States to end violence and prevent mass atrocities. In places like South Sudan, Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the AU has sought to strengthen regional responses to conflict and atrocities, but there is a good deal of work left to be done. At the end of the day, we are confident that this important relationship is moving in the right direction. We are building a partnership capable of shouldering shared responsibilities, and we are building a partnership based on shared values.

As long as we remain steadfast in our commitment and dedicated to showing progress, we will continue to strengthen that important partnership. That makes today a good day in the Security Council.

Mr. Kawamura (Japan): I too would like to thank Mr. Haile Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union (AU), for his in-depth briefing.

When we talk about cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in Africa, two of the key concepts that arise are ownership and partnership. We must balance ownership and partnership to maximize each actor's comparative advantages. The creation of the Organization of African Unity and, later, the African Union (AU) signalled broad regional ownership and consensus on preventing and resolving conflict.

One of the many important roles of the AU is its ability to deploy peace-support operations swiftly to harsh environments. Regarding partnership, the United Nations Office to the African Union has been playing a growing role that is driven by a need for cooperation between the United Nations and the AU. Both institutions can further develop joint planning and decision-making processes, as well as concrete ways to enhance their communication.

Secretariat-level cooperation is under way, in response to the Secretary-General's May report (S/2017/454), and regular direct interactions between the Council and the AU Peace and Security Council are essential in order to tangibly enhance our cooperation. Japan also notes the interest shown during the recent mission in the possible expansion of joint missions going forward. Those could potentially provide valuable insights to both Councils on the situation on the ground.

I would like to emphasize that enhanced partnership is needed not only as part of peace support operations but also for conflict prevention and mediation, as well as on addressing root causes of conflict. The trilateral collaboration between the Council, the AU and the Economic Community of West African States on The Gambia is an excellent example. We also look forward to an expanded conflict prevention role being played by subregional organizations throughout Africa.

During our recent mission, the Council was made aware of the AU's keen interest regarding funding contributions in support of peace and security operations. This requires further discussion in the Council and the General Assembly as well as continued efforts by the AU.

Mr. Llorenty Solís (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Bolivia wishes to express its thanks for the information presented by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Haile Menkerios. We also take this opportunity to express our thanks for the hospitality shown the members of the Security Council during their recent visit to Addis Ababa and to particularly thank you, Mr. President, and the Government and the people of Ethiopia.

Bolivia reiterates its support for and commends the work of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations in connection with the outcome of the first annual conference of the United Nations and the African Union (AU), held in April in order to foster a common understanding of the root causes of conflict and to promote consensus around the adoption of decisions.

We support the commitment shown by both organizations to strengthening and improving dialogue and mechanisms for cooperation and coordination through the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. The remit of the two organizations provide a comprehensive strategic vision that will make it possible to forge a stronger and more robust partnership that will make it possible to address the peace and security challenges faced by both organizations, including disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

In that connection, we welcome the master road map of the African Union on practical measures to silence the guns in Africa by 2020 and its cooperation in activities related to anti-personnel mines, as well as

the signing in June of a memorandum of understanding between the AU Commission and the United Nations Mine Action Service.

Turning to mechanisms for cooperation and coordination, an example to be highlighted is the deployment in 2007 of the AU mission in Somalia and the support it provided in building the federal system of that country and in the implementation of the political road map, thanks to the joint efforts of the AU and the Inter-Government Authority on Development (IGAD). This progress has made it possible for the United Nations and the African Union to establish a partnership at the strategic and operational levels that in the past 15 years has incorporated innovative work methods, primarily in peacekeeping operations. In the case of Somalia, this partnership made it possible to establish a security pact involving mutual commitment between the Government and its international partners, highlighting the importance of a transition of the security functions of the African Union Mission in Somalia to the Somali forces.

In that context, the peacekeeping operations deployed in Africa are a key tool for ensuring the success of the ongoing quest for peace and security. They are also a useful tool to confront challenges and threats such as terrorism and humanitarian crises. This is the case in the Lake Chad basin area, where the United Nations, the AU and other international partners are supporting the work of the Multinational Joint Task Force in tackling Boko Haram.

Bolivia welcomes the signing of the agreement on the provision of support and the memorandum of understanding of 24 February between the AU Commission and the countries that contribute troops in the Lake Chad basin region, with a view to enabling the international community to provide additional support to the region.

In South Sudan, this support has been reflected in the work of the AU Commission Chairperson and the AU High Representative for South Sudan, who have worked to ensure the inclusivity of the national dialogue and the implementation of the agreement, in close consultation with the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, IGAD and the United Nations. Bolivia encourages these initiatives, including the deployment of the Group of Five for the Sahel joint force, and we agree with the Secretary-General, as stated in his report, that it is important to complement those efforts with the

work done in Mali and coordinate them with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.

Bolivia underlines the growing level of strategic partnership between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council and the commitment to the development of a structured, equitable relationship, focusing on strengthening mutual support and continuing technical assistance on both political issues and peacekeeping operations.

In that connection, Bolivia supports the Secretary-General's statement in his report that coherence in the decisions taken by the two Councils is crucial in order to ensure greater impact and strategic convergence so as to enhance our collective capacity to tackle challenges of peace and security.

Moreover, we believe that we must continue to explore various ways to provide support and assistance to AU operations, pursuant to resolution 2320 (2016). Against this backdrop, Bolivia supports the request made by the African Union concerning flexible, predictable financing and economic support for peace and security operations. We highlight the importance of dialogue and cooperation with regional and subregional partners in order to prevent conflicts. The importance of this cooperation is reflected in the joint efforts undertaken by the Economic Community of West African States, the AU and other international partners, including the United Nations, which made it possible to avert conflict in the Republic of the Gambia.

In the same way, Bolivia believes that success in crisis resolution depends on the role assigned women and young people in that area and therefore underscores the need for both organizations to endeavour to ensure that both these groups are fully integrated into all activities related to peace and security.

To conclude, Bolivia deems it crucial to allow the African Union to play a more central role in the making of decisions on issues of concern to it, respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all of its member countries. It is key to abide by the principle of finding an African solution to African problems if we wish to be successful in overcoming our common challenges.

Mr. Nebenzia (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Haile Menkerios, for his

detailed briefing. We share the views we have heard as to the increased level of interaction between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of ensuring peace and security in Africa.

In recent years, both organizations have been endeavouring to use the experience that they have garnered and their comparative advantages while working out common approaches in order to overcome the crisis situations on the African continent. A very good illustration of that was the meeting held on 19 April in New York, the first annual United Nations-African Union conference, in the wake of which the Secretary-General, António Guterres, and African Union Chairperson Mahamat signed the framework agreement between the secretariats on the issues of peace and security.

Among the positive points in the interaction between the United Nations and the African Union we would underscore the July visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria. The delegation included, *inter alia*, the Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed. This is a clear reflection of the determination of the secretariats of the United Nations and the African Union to devise common approaches to the most complex issues in Africa.

We deem it necessary to continue working very closely within the framework of annual consultative meetings between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council. The recent 11th joint consultative meeting of the Council, held in Addis Ababa, showed that this was very useful in order to harmonize positions on the more complex issues on the African continent.

The importance of involving regional and subregional organizations in the resolution of crisis situations is reflected in the interaction between the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the African Union and the United Nations on South Sudan. We hope that this tripartite format will prove its effectiveness and serve as an example for the further use of United Nations forces on the continent.

We underscore that it is unacceptable to impose on African countries outside formulas for settlement. There are many negative examples of such interference, including those in South Sudan, Burundi and many other places. We support the idea in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/744) that it is important to increase preventive efforts on the continent. At

the same time, they must not be in essence a mentor-like external review of domestic political and human rights issues and even less so should they force African countries to correct their ways. We must delegate to the African Union the role of defusing crises. The situation in Libya in 2011 and what transpired there afterwards is a poignant example of such ill-conceived interference.

We agree that we must responsibly approach the issue of increasing the predictability, reliability and flexibility of the funding for African operations and joint missions. At the same time, we think these issues should not be dealt with in the Security Council. For that purpose, we have specialized bodies within the United Nations system, such as the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. We must be sure to follow the existing procedures for considering and approving budget requests and we must ensure transparency and accountability in allocating the use funds. We stand ready to have further constructive dialogues on this issue and concerning specific work in that regard.

In November, for example, we are looking forward to the report of the Secretary-General on the issues of funding the AU mission in Somalia. We think that we need to carefully study the specific proposals therein. Furthermore, we hope that the Africans themselves will conscientiously approach the implementation of their own decisions and commitments regarding increasing their own financial share.

In conclusion, we would like to underscore, once again, something we said last week in Addis Ababa. There we made a proposal aimed at enhancing the interaction between the United Nations and the African Union. More specifically, we suggested that we should consider the possibility of initiating the appointment of relevant special representatives of the African Union Commission to report to the Security Council during our discussion of African issues. That would allow Council members to have a more comprehensive picture of what is going on and to determine the necessary level of support to mediation efforts through the African Union.

Mr. Wu Haitao (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China thanks Mr. Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union for his briefing.

Last week, the eleventh annual consultative meeting of the Security Council and the African Union

(AU) Peace and Security Council was successfully convened in Addis Ababa. Members of the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council had an in-depth and frank discussion on issues of common concern to both Councils. This has brought about a close partnership between the United Nations and the AU. China welcomes this and, once again, extends its appreciation to the AU and Ethiopia for its meticulous preparation and thoughtful arrangement for this year's annual meeting.

For a long time, the AU and other subregional organizations in Africa endeavoured to promote unity among African countries and played an important role in maintaining peace and stability and promoting regional economic and social development in Africa. They made a great contribution to the United Nations goal of fostering peace and development. China commends those efforts.

At present, the overall situation in Africa is stable with good development momentum. At the same time, as stated in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/744), there are challenges facing peace and stability and economic and social development in Africa. Greater close cooperation between the United Nations and the AU is needed.

First, both sides should further enhance targeted cooperation and raise the efficiency of such cooperation. This past April the Secretary-General and Chairperson of the AU signed the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security in which four key areas of cooperation were identified: preventing and mediating conflicts and sustaining peace, responding to conflict, addressing root causes, and continuous review and enhancement of the partnership between the United Nations and the AU. For the next phase of work, both sides should bring into a full play their respective comparative advantages and accelerate the implementation of the Framework.

Secondly, both sides should further expand their fields of cooperation and help Africa tackle its fundamental issues. Supporting Africa's economic and social development is an important thrust of enhanced cooperation between the two sides in the future. It is also an important means of helping Africa to resolve the roots of conflicts. The United Nations should closely integrate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the African Union's Agenda 2063. The international community is

urged to prioritize assistance and investment in health care, education, trade and connectivity and other infrastructure areas to help enhance the economic and social development of African countries.

Thirdly, the Security Council and AU Peace and Security Council should further play their leading role. Supporting capacity-building in Africa's peace and security is a key area for an enhanced United Nations-AU partnership. The AU Peace and Security Council's operations are an important complement to United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council should further communicate and coordinate with each other and quickly establish a mechanism for joint planning, decision-making, assessment and reporting, joint early warning on crises, strategic review, mandate authorization and deployment. The Security Council should provide more support and assistance in providing predictable, stable and sustainable funding and enhancing African countries' capacity-building in security.

China has consistently and resolutely supported Africa's peace and development. President Xi Jinping of China proposed five pillars and ten cooperation programmes in building China's relationship with Africa. The Belt and Road Initiative is also conducive to the development of Africa.

China will maintain its approach of extensive consultations, joint efforts and shared benefits. It will closely cooperate with African countries and continue to assist and support Africa in enhancing its capacity-building in peace and security, resolving its regional hotspot issues more quickly, and achieving peace, stability and development on the African continent.

Mr. Skoog (Sweden): I thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this meeting and for your leadership during our trip to Addis, as well as for your very accurate and good report this morning. I also want to thank Ethiopia for its hospitality during our trip. I also thank Special Representative Haile Menkerios for his briefing this morning.

Last week's mission to Addis Ababa for our eleventh joint consultative meeting with the African Union Peace and Security Council marked an important moment in the ever stronger partnership between our two organizations. We were encouraged by the constructive discussions and by the degree of commonality in our approaches to a number of security challenges on the

African continent. I think that you, Mr. President, very accurately referred to them in your report this morning. We look forward to a swift adoption of the joint communiqué, and we stand ready to work very diligently on that to get it over with as soon as possible.

The United Nations, including the Council, cannot achieve its goals without an ever stronger partnership with the African Union and the subregion. We understand that when the African Union acts, it acts on behalf of all of us. Therefore, we continue to be a staunch supporter of an enhanced strategic partnership between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in Africa.

Last week's meeting, as well as the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed in April, only serve to reinforce this conviction. It is clear to us that the African Union and its regional partners are undertaking vital operations that are not only in the interests of the African continent, but, in a world of increasingly interconnected challenges, are in the interests of all of us. We must now mobilize political will and concrete support for the AU-United Nations partnership in order for that relationship to reach its full potential.

I want to commend the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the African Union Commission and the United Nations Office to the African Union for their efforts in developing and implementing the partnership. The current momentum needs to be seized and built upon. That entails looking at concrete options for more flexible, predictable and sustainable funding of AU peace operations, including access to assessed United Nations contributions. I bring back a sense of urgency in resolving this issue — not least in order to safeguard the security gains that have been made in Somalia thanks to the African Union Military Observer Mission in Somalia.

The women and peace and security agenda remains a vital area of partnership. The recent launch of the African Women Leaders' Network represents a positive step. We hope that the use of joint United Nations-AU visits to raise awareness on gender can be used more frequently, and we welcome the joint visits to Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in July. We also support looking into joint field visits of the two Councils, as was suggested during our trip.

Finally, we welcome the positive developments with regard to United Nations-AU cooperation on international human rights law and international humanitarian law in peace support operations. We would welcome more attention to that issue in the next report of the Secretary-General.

Mr. Cardi (Italy): First of all, let join others in thanking you, Mr. President, and the Secretariat for the excellent organization of the joint meeting with the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council and for the warm hospitality offered by your Government in your capital last week. I would also like to thank Special Representative Haile Menkerios and Commissioner Smail Chergui for their active participation in the meeting, and particularly Mr. Menkerios for his briefing today.

Resolution 2320 (2016), the AU-United Nations framework agreement signed last April, the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/744) on the mechanism to finance AU peace operations and the report of the Chairperson of the AU Commission on the same subject mark the beginning of the new strategic partnership between the two organizations. Last week, the Security Council had a very frank and very substantial and constructive exchange of views with the African Union Peace and Security Council on those important topics. Today's meeting fosters continuity in our discussions. Focus should now be placed on implementation. In that regard, the discussion held in Addis Ababa made it clear that there is broad consensus for developing joint field missions and harmonizing the work programmes on Africa. We support that pragmatic way to improve our methods of work and strengthen cooperation between the two bodies.

In the same vein, we encourage the African Union Commission and the United Nations Secretariat to further enhance their cooperation in addressing the root causes of African conflicts. We commend Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed for the first-ever joint high-level mission with the African Union to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria on women's meaningful participation in peace, security and development.

New common challenges have been arising in recent years. I have underlined them in the meetings in Addis Ababa. First and foremost is terrorism and the growing connection among criminal networks, including on human trafficking. The scope of those

crimes is cross-regional. It is no longer a challenge related only to local conflicts in Africa. The effects of those conflicts are global, and therefore more relevant than even to collective security.

The cross-regional dimension of African conflicts and the regional capacities of the African continent are interlinked, whether in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea or in West Africa and the Sahel, or in the Mediterranean region of Africa. We must continue to enhance the regional capacities of the continent. As indicated by the Secretary-General in his latest report, cooperation can be further implemented through triangular mechanisms that involve subregional organizations and regional economic communities. A contribution by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to the South Sudanese crisis and by the Economic Community of West African States in The Gambia crisis are clear examples of political comparative advantages. That is also the case in the security field for the Group of Five for the Sahel States and its newly established force for the region.

Such a flexible framework will help respond to the legitimate demand for African solutions to African problems. In the long run it will also contribute to making our joint efforts sustainable, even financially. African Union peace operations have comparative advantages when it comes to African crises. In that respect, Italy supports the mechanism set out in the Secretary-General's report for joint planning and mandating of African Union peace operations.

The African Union has taken on important responsibilities in recent years and has shown a willingness to take on more. We support its ambitions in the development of the African Peace and Security Architecture, the African Union Peace Fund and the African Standby Force and its rapid deployment capability. In the meantime, following the pragmatic approach we advocate for shoring up that cooperation, we deem it critical to start securing the current capacities of African Union-mandated peace operations.

The founding of the African Union Military Observer Mission in Somalia, for instance, requires a prompt solution. The Secretary-General's next thematic report will be issued in November, during Italy's presidency of the Security Council. We look forward to developing our discussion on that occasion.

Enhanced strategic cooperation with the African Union is the leading way to smart and cost-effective

peace operations. We encourage African partners to finalize their operative arrangements for the 25 per cent contribution of the African Union to peace operations. Financing predictability is an essential, yet not the exclusive way, to strengthen African capabilities. We are in favour of the United Nations exploring the use of assessed contributions, provided that the appropriate set of requirements in terms of troop quality, accountability, human rights compliance and conduct and discipline standards are met. Equipment, technological innovation and training are also crucial. Italy stands ready to strengthen its engagement in capacity-building in favour of police and military units in African Union missions and to contribute to devising new training schemes tailored to African needs.

Mr. Bermúdez (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, allow me to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union, Mr. Haile Menkerios, for his briefing on the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/744) on ways to strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa.

Uruguay recognizes the progress made over the past 15 years in the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations on issues related to peace and security. In our view, that partnership is fundamental and necessary given the ongoing conflicts in complex contexts, in which we must face asymmetrical threats and the spread of violent extremism and terrorism and — in many cases — also confront humanitarian crises and massive violations of human rights. In that regard, Uruguay appreciates the enthusiastic efforts of the African Union to achieve peace and development in Africa, thereby playing a positive role in the peaceful resolution of such conflicts. That is why we encourage the African Union to continue to contribute constructively to addressing the various conflicts on the continent.

My delegation welcomes the progress made in the partnership over the past year, a period covered by the report under consideration. The signing of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, the implementation of the African Union Peace Fund, the adoption of resolution 2320 (2016) and the recent meeting between the Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, which was mentioned a few minutes ago, are concrete steps aimed at further bolstering the cooperative framework for Africa. We

also share the view of Mr. Menkerios that the United Nations Office to the African Union continues to play an essential role. The Office is a fundamental channel for providing substantive and technical support and ensuring concerted decision-making, particularly between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council. Uruguay appreciates the ongoing efforts to restructure the Office with the aim of fulfilling the new dynamics of our alliance, and we look forward to a comprehensive review of what the Office needs in order to enable it to meet the demands on it.

The growing number of regional peacekeeping and peace support operations shows that the demand for such efforts in Africa now exceeds what the United Nations, the African Union or any other regional or subregional organization can handle individually. This reality confirms the fact that peacekeeping remains essential not only because it is a versatile instrument but also because it is cost-effective. In that regard, my delegation would like to emphasize three factors that we believe will be decisive in enabling the alliance between the United Nations and the African Union to reach its full potential.

The first relates to the process of planning and defining the joint mandates of African Union peace support operations authorized by the Security Council. We believe that close cooperation on this process is essential to ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of such operations. It is vital to continue efforts to improve the organizations' joint work throughout the life cycle of a mission. Among other things, that includes the initial assessment of a crisis, a joint strategic assessment, the implementation of the mission and assessments of its fulfilment of its mandate and its accountability.

The second factor concerns the financing of African Union peace support operations. We have seen that a lack of predictable and sustainable funding and support for such operations has undermined the African Union's ability to act and respond to crisis situations. We believe that the various funding models proposed in the Secretary-General's May report on the subject (S/2017/454) offer viable options for Member States to consider.

The third factor relates to developing the capacities of African Union personnel deployed in peace support operations. As a country that has been actively involved in peacekeeping operations for many years, Uruguay

considers the responsibility of countries that contribute troop and police contingents particularly important, since they are the people who do the work on the ground and have to implement operation mandates. In that context, we should emphasize that any non-United Nations force authorized by the Security Council, including African Union peace support operations, must comply with the same requirements as United Nations peacekeeping personnel in terms of capacities, performance, conduct, discipline and accountability. We would like to highlight the efforts that the African Union is making to refine its human rights and conduct and discipline frameworks in order to ensure that its peace support operations are conducted in full compliance with human rights norms and international humanitarian law, while also ensuring oversight and accountability.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate our appreciation for the African Union's mediation and facilitation efforts in various areas of conflict, such as South Sudan and the Central African Republic. We are confident that an even closer alliance with the United Nations will also help to enhance the effectiveness of those efforts.

Mrs. Gueguen (France) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to thank Mr. Haile Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his briefing, and you, Mr. President, for organizing today's meeting at a very timely moment, just as the Security Council has returned from its annual meeting in Addis Ababa with the African Union Peace and Security Council and when one of the main parts of the General Assembly's high-level week will be devoted to a Council meeting on 20 September on maintaining peace. In that regard, Mr. President, I commend your team's work on a draft resolution on peacekeeping operations, which France supports. Today I would like to enlarge on three main points arising from our discussions in Addis Ababa last week.

My first point is about emphasizing once again the strategic nature of the partnership between the United Nations, the African Union (AU) and the regional economic communities. France is firmly committed to strengthening that partnership. The time has come to make a qualitative leap, as part of the evolution of peacekeeping and the division of roles between the United Nations and regional organizations, and to fully implement Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. That change is both inevitable — owing to the evolving nature of the multiplying threats to peace — and

highly desirable, owing to the two organizations' clear respective comparative advantages. It should enable us to share tasks in a rational way, which will both improve operations' efficiency and performance and ensure a better allocation of financial and human resources.

The many crises affecting Africa and their terrible consequences for its peoples, particularly on the humanitarian front and with regard to violations of human rights, compel us to deepen our thinking on how to provide an adequate response. We must also work together if we are to be more effective in preventing such crises. That has been the aim of all the efforts made since the Secretary-General took office, working in close collaboration with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. It has also been the aim of the actions taken in the wake of the Council's adoption, in November 2016, of resolution 2320 (2016) and the signing, on 19 April, of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, as well as the Council's visit to Addis Ababa for its annual meeting with the African Union Peace and Security Council.

Of course — and this is the second point I would like to address — the question of the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union for peace and security in Africa means dealing with the goal of improving the conduct and organization as well as the financing of African peace operations authorized or mandated by the Security Council. African peace operations can have comparative advantages over their United Nations counterparts. They can be deployed more quickly and benefit from more robust mandates, and their troop contingents generally have a good knowledge of the terrain. Besides that, they also correspond to the universally supported goal of African States' ownership of their own security. In that regard, I commend the work undertaken so far by the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. Several options have been proposed for financing African operations and should be followed up and defined more precisely, including the AU Peace Fund, designed to enable African States to finance 25 per cent of the cost of operations by 2020 in line with the decision taken at the Kigali Summit in July 2016 and confirmed at the Addis Ababa Summit in January. And I would also point to the financial impact that such proposals could have on the budget of the United Nations.

With regard to political and operational cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, the Security Council, the AU Peace and Security Council, the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission have come up with constructive proposals for a joint mechanism for analysing threats, defining mandates and assessing operations. Those concepts should be pursued with a view to producing more detailed proposals on strengthening the capacities of the African Union and African's regional economic communities for planning and conducting peace operations, in collaboration with the United Nations. That also involves creating mechanisms essential to ensuring transparency, accountability and respect for codes of conduct and respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. The Security Council must be kept duly informed and able to guide the missions it authorizes and mandates.

The third point I want to make is that while African peacekeeping operations are key to the return of stability in the African continent, they are not the only decisive factor. That is why strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the AU and regional economic communities must also be based on a collaborative approach aimed either at better preventing crisis situations — for example, through greater sharing of early warning information, and I welcome the progress made in cooperation between the United Nations and the AU to that end — or at better anticipating solutions for ending crises by sharing a common political vision.

In particular, as the Secretary-General highlights in his report (S/2017/744), it would seem indispensable for the African Union and the regional economic communities to contribute, where relevant, to creating conditions conducive to a political resolution of crises on which stabilization and reconstruction efforts can be based. As our discussion in Addis Ababa strongly highlighted, we must therefore ensure that the partnership is not limited to issues of security but that it be expanded and deepened in the area of sustaining peace and sustainable development, in line with the the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To conclude, I wish to underscore that many crises on the Council's agenda — be it the threat posed by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad basin countries, the

situation in Somalia, or insecurity in Mali and the region of the Group of Five for the Sahel — are emblematic of the regional and cross-cutting nature of issues facing States and peoples today. The interlinkage of security, political, environmental, social and economic challenges requires an integrated response addressing both urgent security issues and the underlying causes of violence.

The time has come to make a decisive qualitative leap in the United Nations-AU partnership by articulating their respective actions in a structured and pragmatic way. France is determined to contribute to that end and to support the efforts of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General in this area.

Mr. Umarov (Kazakhstan): We are grateful to your presidency, Sir, for the excellent organization of the eleventh annual joint United Nations-African Union (AU) consultative meeting, held in Addis Ababa, and for the warm hospitality provided to the Security Council delegation.

I would also like to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Haile Menkerios for his comprehensive and insightful briefings, in Addis Ababa and here, on strengthening the United Nations-African Union partnership on issues of peace and security in Africa and the activities of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU).

My delegation supports the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/744) and would like to make the following observations.

The United Nations-AU partnership has evolved significantly, as reaffirmed at the recent United Nations-AU consultative meeting, in line with the landmark resolution 2320 (2016). The Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed on 19 April, also marks a new phase of enhanced strategic collaboration that can have optimal value for Africa. What we realize today is the need for what the Secretary-General calls a whole new approach, with a shift to conflict prevention, rather than spending more time and resources on resolving them. These characterize the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace and fast-forwards Africa's Strategy 2063 and the Silence the Guns by 2020 project.

Therefore, the United Nations-AU preventive diplomacy tools and mechanisms can be strengthened only by working closely at each level, with every

entity — the United Nations Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council, UNOAU, and the AU Observer Mission to the United Nations. This calls for close synergy between the United Nations and AU Special Representatives and Envoys, including possible joint field missions of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council. We also need to combine our strengths at all phases of the continuum, from early warning, conflict prevention, resolution, recovery to development and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. We welcome, therefore, the establishment of the two separate working groups of the United Nations and the AU to further advance the recently signed partnership.

The United Nations can leverage the comparative advantages of regional and subregional organizations, as well as groups of neighbouring countries, for they possess a better understanding of the dynamics and root causes of conflicts and the terrain, and are therefore in a better position to mobilize resources. Often our response to crises remains fragmented, while their causes are deeply interlinked. It is therefore necessary to elaborate comprehensive approaches, connecting security, humanitarian and development efforts, to be better reinforced by financial outlays on peacebuilding measures. We must invest much more in addressing the root causes of tensions and instability by building State institutions and consolidating constitutions, holding elections, building democracy and the rule of law, ending impunity, establishing good governance and implementing security sector reforms.

Equally important are investments in human development, infrastructure development, climate mitigation, disaster risk reduction and building resilience. Only these will promote intra-African economic growth, resulting in greater and more vibrant regional integration with tangible progress. In addition, there has to be harmonization of AU and United Nations standards across the African continent. Furthermore, peace will be more durable when women and young people are fully integrated into all activities at every stage of the peace and security process, and are at the negotiating table at the highest levels.

While the framework of decision-making, proposed by Secretary-General in his latest report, will make joint action more effective, further technical work needs to be undertaken to agree on the modalities for joint analysis, planning and assessment of the relevant

intergovernmental bodies. These will also require a revision of internal administrative processes, policies and procedures.

AU peace support operations, with the organization's knowledge of local conflicts and the tactics of militias, are effective tools in helping the United Nations to better discharge its mandate of maintaining international peace and security. This joint work is particularly advantageous in combating terrorism, organized crime, human trafficking and other scourges. The international community therefore needs to provide AU peace operations with capacity-building and financial support, in accordance with resolution 2320 (2016).

We commend AU for its continued commitment with regard to covering 25 per cent of the cost of its peace-support operations, and believe that the AU Peace Fund will be a robust mechanism for cooperation and partnership. The four options of a jointly developed budget, as identified in the Secretary-General's report of 26 May (S/2017/454), should be explored for optimal results, beyond the use of voluntary contributions.

Kazakhstan, as an observer of the AU, remains committed to further strengthening the AU and to helping African countries fulfil their vision for peace, progress and prosperity.

Mr. Allen (United Kingdom): I wish you a Happy New Year, Mr. President. I also thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Menkerios for his briefing.

At the outset, let me express my thanks to you, Sir, and to the Secretariat for leading a successful visit to the Africa Union (AU) in Addis Ababa. We all saw and heard first hand just how critical the relationship is between the United Nations and the AU, and I look forward and commit to doing whatever I can to strengthen that relationship. I do so because our two great organizations share the same objectives, the same priorities and the same respect for the principle of African leadership. It is therefore in all of our interests to forge an even closer relationship as we strive to maintain peace and security in Africa. To do so, I see three steps that we should take.

First, and the others have said, we need to do more to learn from each other. A simple first step would be having more joint briefings in the Chamber from AU and United Nations officials, as we do on Somalia.

They are a vital means of increasing the awareness and knowledge of all of us around this table. There should also be more joint analysis, joint planning and joint assessments so that we form a common understanding of a situation and together find common solutions. The recent un-Au visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria on the theme of women and peace and security was an example of the sort of collaborative work we should encourage. We should cultivate our joint reporting on gender-based violence in places like South Sudan so that we move beyond reporting to the sharing of action plans and further collaboration. We should agree as the United Nations that we will make available any of our special envoys or special representatives if the African Union Peace and Security Council wishes to hear from them, and we should invite the African Union to do the same.

We should also look at what more we can do as Member States. The United Kingdom works closely with AU member States to provide military capacity-building, delivering, training and sharing expertise on improving accountability, human rights compliance and preventing sexual violence in conflict. I know others are doing the same, and I encourage all to do so.

Secondly, we need both organizations to play to their comparative strengths so that together we are more than the sum of our parts. We need only look to Somalia to see that it works. The bravery and the heroism of African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) troops, to whom I pay genuine and profound tribute, supported by the United Nations, has enabled the political process and progress we see there.

During this year's presidential elections, it was AU troops who protected the venue, infrastructure and participants, ensuring the safety and security of all those involved, and it was the United Nations Support Office in Somalia that helped AMISOM in the preparatory work, setting up the venue, ensuring the integrity of the site and providing vital security equipment to AMISOM. Together, they — we — helped make history, ensuring that the most democratic presidential elections in Somalia in decades passed off successfully and peacefully. It is a model that we should replicate elsewhere.

My third and final point is that our cooperation will count for little without sustainable financing. As we heard last week during our discussions with the AU Peace and Security Council in Addis Ababa,

this is a top objective for all of us. So we must find a solution which shares the responsibility to provide adequate, predictable and sustainable financing to AU-led missions, including the AU's own commitment to fund 25 per cent of costs by 2020. It was important to the United Kingdom that on our visit to Addis Ababa, so many speakers from the two Councils and the AU Commission reiterated their commitment to funding that 25 per cent.

This financial solution must be combined with the undertaking of agreed standards and mechanisms to ensure oversight and accountability for performance, conduct and discipline, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and financial management. In doing so, not only will the finances of AU missions be secured, but their performance and accountability will also improve. This will only be to the benefit of peace and security and to the benefit of many outside this Chamber. This seems to me a fruitful area for concrete follow-up by the United Nations Secretariat and the AU Peace and Security Council.

In conclusion, there is still some way to go to bring our organizations even closer together, but through these three steps, I believe that we can do so, and our collaborative progress to date should encourage us that we can resolve future challenges together.

Mr. Yelchenko (Ukraine): I want to thank you, Mr. President, for having convened this briefing. It is important to maintain a high level of engagement by the Council in the discussion of the role of the African Union (AU) and subregional organizations in promoting peace and sustainable development among the African States. The outcomes of the joint consultations just held in Addis Ababa will certainly contribute to this end. I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Ethiopian presidency for this initiative and for its hospitality.

In addition, I would like to welcome Special Representative Haile Menkerios and thank him for his comprehensive presentation.

No one can deny that the African Union has demonstrated its ability to take the lead in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. During our membership in the Council, we have witnessed on numerous occasions how the African Union can adapt itself to both the ongoing and emerging challenges on the African continent. This relates specifically to the ability of the

African Union to stand united and to reach consensus on multifaceted issues. The recent AU master road map of practical steps to silence the guns in Africa by 2020 serves as a vivid example.

Such an effort should go hand in hand with the elimination of the root causes of conflict on the continent, and here the United Nations should continue to serve as the AU's indispensable partner.

The United Nations should continue building and enhancing its strategic partnership with the African continent, working in concert with the AU and using the comparative advantages of each actor in peacekeeping, peacebuilding and conflict management. In that light, we are encouraged by the increased efforts of the Secretary-General aimed at strengthening the cooperation between the United Nations and the AU, particularly the signing of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security.

Let me highlight several aspects of the current United Nations-AU cooperation that in our view are worthy of priority attention.

First, the United Nations is yet to succeed in taking timely and effective preventive measures in response to situations or tensions that could possibly become a full-scale conflict or where the civilian population is endangered and urgently requires protection.

In that regard, we commend the efforts of the African Union in this area, as the first responder to crises with the authorization of the Security Council. We are encouraged by the fact that the AU and the relevant regional economic communities and mechanisms are continuing to strengthen the operational readiness of the African Standby Force. The operationalization of the Force will ensure a robust and swift regional reaction in case of need.

In that light, it is important to continue to make efforts to eliminate shortcomings in AU peace-support operations, in particular capability gaps. We believe that ensuring deployment readiness and increased performance requires collective and coordinated actions by the United Nations, the AU and other key partners such as the European Union. We look forward to the establishment of the relevant trilateral collaborative mechanisms.

Secondly, it is crucial to ensure sustainable and predictable financing of the AU operations authorized by the Council. In that respect, the Secretary-General's proposals on options for financing AU peace-support operations provides a range of viable choices. Given the complexity of the peacekeeping endeavour, we are convinced that there can be no uniform approach that will fit all situations. We therefore support preserving a maximum degree of flexibility in considering this issue.

Thirdly, in keeping with the people-centered approach to United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities, we believe that the protection of civilians is a decisive factor for the success of the AU operations endorsed by the Council. It is clear also that there can be no peace without human rights. Thus this component should become an indispensable element of all AU operations authorized by the Security Council, with proper adherence to the United Nations human rights due diligence policy.

Last but not least, in the light of the latest joint consultations between the two Councils and the further enhancement of their cooperation, Ukraine underlines the merit of joint United Nations-AU field missions, which we see as an important conflict-prevention tool.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Ethiopia.

I want to join other Council members in expressing thanks to Special Representative Haile Menkerios for his comprehensive briefing on the annual report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/744) on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) on issues of peace and security in Africa, including the work of the United Nations office to the African Union.

Strengthening the United Nations-AU partnership is indeed a matter of priority for us, and we are very pleased that this discussion is taking place during our presidency of the Council and a few days before the start of the high-level week of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly.

Let me highlight the following three points in relation to our discussion on the United Nations-AU partnership today.

First, it is indeed fitting that this meeting is taking place immediately after the successful conclusion of the 11th joint annual consultation between the United

Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council.

I wish to thank once again both Special Representative of the Secretary-General Haile Menkerios and Commissioner Chergui for all their support and cooperation and for making all the arrangements necessary for the smooth conduct of the meeting. The frank exchange of views between members of the two Councils demonstrated the significant importance that they attach to the partnership between the United Nations and the AU in the area of peace and security.

Secondly, this annual briefing is also taking place against the backdrop of leadership change in both organizations and a renewed commitment to elevating the United Nations-AU partnership to a new, higher level. That is reflected in the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed by Secretary-General António Guterres and Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat on 19 April. The implementation of the framework will certainly go a long way in further strengthening and deepening the partnership between the two organizations in the areas of conflict prevention and mediation, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery.

Thirdly, and last but not least, this meeting is being held after both the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission presented their report on options for financing AU-mandated peace-support operations authorized by the Security Council on a case-by-case basis in accordance with resolution 2320 (2016). It is also happening just before the high-level open debate on the reform of United Nations peacekeeping operations, scheduled to take place on 20 September, where the issue of partnership with the AU in the area of peacekeeping will form one of the important pillars of the discussion.

We are pleased with the progress in terms of United Nations-AU cooperation and collaboration on a range of issues. Our discussion today will certainly build momentum in that regard. We express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his commitment to enhancing the United Nations-AU strategic partnership and for his readiness to work closely with the African Union on a range on issues based on Africa's needs and priorities. We cannot agree more with him on the need to build African capacity, in particular in the area

of peacekeeping. We hope we will be able to make progress in terms of ensuring predictable, flexible and sustainable financing for AU-led peace support operations authorized by the Security Council. That

is not only fair and appropriate, it is also in the best interests of our collective security.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.